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ARAB TIMES



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WEDNESDAY, MAY 24, 1989 / SHAWWAL 19, 1409 AH

Kuwait wants to stabilise oil prices

CARACAS, May 23, (Reuters): Kuwait favours stabilising world oil prices at current levels to assure long-term demand, Kuwait Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Khalifa said yesterday.

In Venezuela on a two-day official visit, Sheikh Ali told reporters Kuwait does not favour a price increase at this time.

"We don't want to reduce prices, but we don't want prices to increase. Not because we don't want the additional revenue — we all need every additional dollar we can get our hands on," he said after meeting with officials of the state oil company Petroleos de Venezuela SA (PDVSA).

"But we want something that can be continued well into the future, and this can only be done through stable prices that would encourage

demand," he said.

He said that, in his opinion, prices should remain "at the current level."

Asked if this could mean an increase in production quotas by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), Sheikh Ali said: "I think we will be discussing that in Vienna, and it would be unwise to pre-empt our discussions there."

North Sea Brent, a world marker crude, fell below \$17 a barrel for July loading, down from more than \$20 per barrel in April.

Sheikh Ali who arrived in Caracas on Sunday, told reporters he had invited PDVSA president Juan Chacin to visit Kuwait before the end of the year to explore ways in which PDVSA could co-operate with Kuwait.



Venezuelan Oil Minister Celestino Armas (left) and Sheikh Ali meeting in Caracas. (Reuter wirephoto)

Leave Lebanon, PLO alone: Egypt

Khaddafi arrives, threatens walkout

CASABLANCA, May 23, (Agencies): Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak quickly assumed the leadership of Arab moderates before the opening of an emergency summit today crowning Cairo's return to the Arab fold after a 10-year break.

Mubarak and his principal aides launched into polite but firm criticism of radical Syria over its role in Lebanon and its opposition to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat — two main issues at the summit.

"The balance of power between Arabs has changed 100 per cent with yesterday's arrival of Mubarak," said PLO spokesman Ahmed Abdelrahman.

Eighteen heads of state from the 22-member group have arrived for the summit expected to open at about 1800 GMT, making it possibly the best attended Arab summit in many years.

Leaders meet in secret



Workers prepare to put a drape over the portrait of the late Chairman Mao Tse-Tung on the Gate of Heavenly Peace. Three people splattered paint on the portrait. Student protest leaders disclaimed any responsibility for the incident. (Reuter wirephoto)

Million demand Li's resignation

Zhao 'returns' to work

BEIJING, May 23, (Agencies): A million people streamed through the streets of Beijing today to demand the resignation of Premier Li Peng and condemn his declaration of martial law in the Chinese capital.

■ The father of Montazeri died today and was buried in his hometown, IRNA said.

■ Iran's Parliament today voted to merge two ministries which provide logistical support for the regular Army and the Revolutionary Guards.

■ Iran today released 49 Iraqi prisoners of war who were flown to Baghdad aboard a plane chartered by the International Committee of the Red Cross, the ICRC announced.

for a freer and less corrupt society.

"People unite and break the military coup," one poster said.

"Bury the cult of the individual. End old people's politics," said another, in apparent reference to senior leader Deng Xiaoping, 84.

And the Chinese leaders bidden in secret today to debate withdrawing troops from around Beijing.

The demonstration led by students, teachers, government employees and intellectuals, was the largest show of public wrath toward Li since martial law was imposed Saturday to quell a student-led campaign for democratic reforms.

Hong Kong commercial radio reported that China's politburo, the Communist Party's top decision-making body, decided today to strip the 60-year-old former electrical engineer of both his government and party posts.

(Continued on Page 5)

Assad and his radical ally Muammar Khaddafi of Libya were among the last to arrive in Morocco's spruced-up commercial capital for the summit called by Moroccan King Hassan to rally Arab support behind Arifat.

Khaddafi warned overnight he would lead a walkout from the summit if there was any move towards recognising Israel or harming the Arab cause.

Delegates said the summit was expected to achieve little of substance, although it might be able to gloss over differences between the moderate, pro-Western camp and the increasingly isolated radicals.

"This is the conference marking Egypt's return," said a senior Egyptian official who declined to be identified.

"There is no other purpose. Any resolutions, decisions or discussions are largely irrelevant," he added.

As Assad arrived in Casablanca shortly before the summit opening, Mubarak told Arab leaders who flocked to a luxury villa set aside for him by King Hassan that Syria must withdraw its 40,000 troops from Lebanon.

His top aide, Osama Al Baz, said yesterday Mubarak would not compromise on this issue.

He also said Egypt spoke for a majority of Arabs when it gave full backing to PLO leader Yasser Arafat's new strategy seeking to establish an independent state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Backed by a Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation now in its 18th month, Arafat has largely turned previously hostile world public opinion in favour of the Palestinians.

Baz said Syria had every right to disagree with Arafat's policies but the last word on the Palestinian issue must remain with the Palestinians.

Mubarak said he favoured inviting Lebanon's rival leaders, Christian Army commander Michel Aoun and Sunni Muslim acting Prime Minister Selim Hoss, to address the summit separately.

Delegates said a majority of Arab states favoured sending a strong peace-keeping force to replace Syrian troops in Lebanon, or at least in and around Beirut.

(Continued on Page 5)

'Till death'

BEIRUT, May 23, (Reuters): Christian Army commander Major General Michel Aoun vowed today to drive Syrian troops from Lebanon or die trying, and said the real fighting had yet to begin.

Aoun, speaking in the basement of the shell-cratered presidential palace, also demanded the Arab League summit in Casablanca act to solve the Lebanon crisis.

See Syrians shelling

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NEWSWATCH

Landing into jail

A MAN who stayed 10 years away from Kuwait, returned through Kuwait International Airport to find security men waiting for him because of a crime he had committed a long time back.

According to investigations, the accused had entered the country 10 years ago with a forged passport and under a false name. He then worked at one of the government establishments for some time with the same forged passport and residence permit.

The culprit tried to enter Kuwait International Airport this time under another forged name and passport.

Security men waited for the man until he completed customs' and passport formalities before they arrested him. He was astonished when a security man addressed him as "welcome back Ramdan".

The accused told the court that he resorted to forgery to enable him to enter Kuwait and obtain a job.

The court sentenced him to three years imprisonment with hard labour to be followed by deportation.

Train plunges

BANGKOK, May 23, (Reuters): An express passenger train plunged into a deep ravine in northern Thailand today and railway officials alerted hospitals to expect a high casualty toll.

A railway in Lampang said by telephone that 13 carriages of a 15-car train were derailed about 580 km (340 miles) north of Bangkok in darkness and rescue workers were trying to reach the crash site.

One of the crew walked five km (three miles) to report the crash.

Parole hearing

SOLEDAD, California, May 23, (UPI): Sirhan Sirhan, who has been behind bars more than 20 years for killing Sen. Robert Kennedy, went into his 10th parole hearing today with a fear that he will never be released.

The 44-year-old Palestinian had asked that the parole hearing his first in two years — at the tough state prison at Soledad be postponed until a psychiatric evaluation was completed but the request was denied.

Arms talks

WASHINGTON, May 23, (UPI): US Secretary of State James Baker announced today that the United States and the Soviet Union had agreed to resume arms negotiations on June 19 to halve superpower nuclear arsenals.

Cannes award

CANNES, May 23, (UPI): The American film "Sex, Lies and Videotape" won the top prize in the 42nd annual Cannes film festival today, and American stars Meryl Streep and James Spader took the top acting awards.

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The last week

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Hair-raising protest

A protester against the ARMX weapons technology show carries his message on the spikes of his hair in Ottawa, Canada on Monday. The ARMX exhibition opens today. (Reuter wirephoto)

Belgian kidnapped Kuwaiti

NORTHAMPTON, England, May 23, (Reuters): A Belgian diamond dealer used his girlfriend and his brother-in-law to help kidnap a Kuwaiti businessman in an attempt to recover an alleged \$2.5 million debt, a court here heard yesterday.

William Schroyens was said to have decided on the kidnap after failing to get the money which he alleged Waleed Al Humaidi owed him from various diamond deals.

Humaidi, 38, was snatched from a house near Northampton in central England last September and held hostage in London for five days before he was released by police.

The prosecution said Schroyens recruited his girlfriend Danielle Peumans and his brother-in-law Eddie Doucet to kidnap the businessman for ransom.

Peumans, 42, from Brussels, and Doucet, 31, an Antwerp diamond dealer, have admitted kidnapping Humaidi. But they denied plotting to demand money with menaces.

The prosecution lawyer said

(Continued on Page 7, Col 3)

'Let Marcos return to unite Philippines'

Imelda pleads

MANILA, May 23, (AP): Imelda Marcos said today she had sent a letter asking President Corazon Aquino to allow her husband, Ferdinand Marcos, to return home to unite the country and ensure its survival.

She said Marcos' dying wish to come home could "be the answer to heal the deepening division among our people, and reconciliation must begin between us, Aquino, and I."

Imelda then thanked Aquino for offering prayers for Marcos' recovery.

Aquino said yesterday her government was not strong enough to risk Marcos' return, and officials could not even be sure his funeral would not lead to trouble.

Aquino met yesterday with her cabinet crisis committee to review the Marcos issue. Afterward, officials said the ban on Marcos — dead or alive — would continue.

But national security adviser Rafael Elio told reporters there was a chance the government might reconsider its ban on a Marcos funeral in the Philippines.

Dreams shattered

Maids tortured

KUWAIT, May 23, (AP): Alice, a 23-year-old Filipina, suffered eight months of beatings as the maid of an Arab family that have shattered her dream of a better life in the Gulf.

"When I came here, they told me I had a beautiful smile," she said in an interview from her hospital bed where she lay with a broken jaw, fractured elbows and a leg broken in three places.

"All my teeth were nice. Now they're all broken... I lost everything here," she said, asking that her full name not be used.

Alice managed to escape from her employers, who had locked her up. Some of the hundreds of thousands of mainly Filipino, Sri Lankan and Indian women who come to the Gulf are not so lucky.

They are lured by unscrupulous recruiting agents with promises of high pay and an escape from poverty in their homelands.

Instead, they are paid between \$100-200 a month and many find themselves trapped in a nightmare world of fear, deprivation, sexual harassment, abuse — and sometimes murder.

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عکس میں دیکھ لیں

کرنگلے دیکھ لیں

Rajiv hails missile test: US worried

WASHINGTON, May 23, (Agencies): The United States was very concerned about India's test-firing of an intermediate-range ballistic missile yesterday, fearing it could undermine stability in the region, a White House spokesman said.

Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi hailed the successful test as a step towards safeguarding his country's independence. He claimed there was "a great deal of misinformation ... being spread and in interested quarters about that technology."

The US has been trying to limit the number of countries with ballistic missiles, fearing they could be armed with nuclear warheads.

"We've always made our concerns known regarding the spread of ballistic missiles throughout the world," said White House spokesman Roman Popadiuk. "We see that this does not add to stability within various regions, and obviously on India's tests we are very concerned."

Destabilising

He added: "In the past we have made our position very clear to the Indian government, that further proliferation of ballistic missiles in South Asia would be regarded as a highly destabilising development in the region."

India's two-stage, Agni (fire) surface-to-surface missile blasted off from a test range on the Bay of Bengal, along the country's east coast. Two previous attempts to launch the missile, which has a range of 1,500 miles (2,400 km), were aborted shortly before blast-off because of technical problems.

By successfully firing the missile, India joined the US, the Soviet Union, China, France, Britain and Israel in homemade ballistic missile capability.

Scientists yesterday tested the missile for a range of up to 1,000 kilometres (620 miles), the military officials said on condition of not being identified.

Accurate

"Agni is not a weapons system," Rajiv said in a statement issued in New Delhi after the launch. "However, the technologies proved in Agni are deeply significant for evolving national security options."

He said the missile accurately followed the pre-determined flight path and "fully met the objectives we had set for it."

Western military experts said the Agni's 1-ton payload capability was enough to carry a nuclear warhead, although Rajiv denied such a possibility was under consideration.

"What Agni does is to afford us the option of developing the ability to deliver non-nuclear weapons with high precision at long ranges," he said. "This provides us with a viable non-nuclear option of the greatest relevance to contemporary strategic doctrines."

However, defence experts question the rationale of developing such a sophisticated guiding system for a nuclear-capable missile.

"You need accuracy or a point target if you are using a conventional warhead," a Western analyst said on condition of not being identified.

Mysterious missile hits Pakistani town, no casualties

ISLAMABAD, May 23, (KUNA): Pakistani military experts were today examining the exploded parts of a mysterious missile which hit the central Pakistani town of Dhakkar yesterday.

News of the yet undetermined missile which did not cause any harm to human life was first broken by Pakistan Army Chief

of Staff General Aslam Baig last night at a dinner hosted by the Senate chairman in Islamabad.

He told journalists that the experts, among other things, would find out from the debris its make and also the origin of its firing.

The Army chief ruled out the possibility of its being a Scud-missile which has hit Pakistani

territory bordering Afghanistan twice in the last three months. According to him, the range of the Soviet-made Scud missile was 280 kilometres whereas the Dhakkar area in Mianwali-Khubab region in the interior of Punjab province was nearly 360 kilometres.

Baig agreed with a reporter that the missile landed inside

Pakistani territory in the morning and that this was also the time of firing of the Indian Agni missile into the Bay of Bengal. He said that it was known that Agni's maximum range is 2,500 km but it must have a minimum range also.

Pakistan, he said, had no system available with it to detect an incoming missile well in advance.

The United States did have such a system, he noted.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, when told that India's Agni missile had hit Dhakkar area deep in the interior of Pakistan, remarked: "Your news is wrong if not full, at least half."

According to unofficial reports received in Islamabad the unidentified missile landed at

Gokan Wala in Qadir Bakshi village, 10 miles from Dhakkar.

■ Benazir starts a three-day official visit to Turkey today aimed at affirming Pakistan's friendly relations with Turkey.

■ PPP retained its Chitral seat while the IDA kept intact their Manshera seat in the two National Assembly by-elections held yesterday.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Evans dies

LOS ANGELES, May 23, (UPI): Actor Peter Evans, who won accolades for a wide range of Broadway roles but was known to a wider audience through his portrayal of Russ Merman on the television comedy series "9 to 5," has died. Officials said: He was 38.

Evans died Saturday at Century City Hospital, a nursing supervisor said. The Los Angeles Times reported that he died of complications of AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome).

Toxic gases

PARIS, May 23, (AP): French doctors working with American and Soviet colleagues in the Soviet Republic of Georgia said today they have confirmed that some demonstrators who died in a clash with police last month were killed by toxic gases.

The Organisation Medecins Sans Frontieres (doctors without borders) said in a statement today that on the basis of autopsy results in 16 cases, chloropicrine had been identified as one of the gases responsible in some of the deaths.

Ethnic unrest

VIENNA, May 23, (Reuter): Seven people were killed and at least 200 arrested when security forces with tanks and armoured vehicles cracked down on demonstrations by ethnic Turks in Bulgaria at the weekend, a Bulgarian emigre said today.

Three Turks were killed in clashes on Sunday after police tried to arrest a Turk at a weekly market in the northern town of Todor Ikonomo, Stefan Tabakov, leader of the Bulgarian Social Democratic Party in exile told Reuters in Vienna.

Gibraltar killings

LONDON, May 23, (KUNA): The Ministry of Defence in London refused to comment on a newspaper report today claiming crucial parts of the British government's justification for shooting dead three IRA members in Gibraltar had been "flatly contradicted" by Spanish police sources.

Racist campaign

PARIS, May 23, (KUNA): French ultra-right leader, Jean-Marie Le Pen continued his racist campaign against immigrants from North Africa but said his stand was prompted by national reason and not religious.

Aviation accident

WASHINGTON, May 23, (AP): Safety officials are wrapping up a 13-month investigation into an aviation accident that has led to sweeping changes in maintenance of the world's aging airline fleet.

The National Transportation Safety Board was meeting today to determine the probable cause and issue recommendations in connection with the April 28, 1988, incident in which the roof of an Aloha Airlines' Boeing 737 ripped open over the Hawaiian islands.

Joint mediation

STOCKHOLM, May 23, (AP): The four European neutral countries will confer later this year on offering their joint mediation of international conflicts, Swiss Foreign Minister Renzo Felber said today.

The violence erupted midway during Poland's parliamentary election campaign in which the opposition is taking part for the first time in more than 40 years.

See Polish elections

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American health

WASHINGTON, May 23, (UPI): A report card on America's health is giving its highest grade ever as more people take steps to cut cholesterol from their diets and stop smoking, but it warns that 64 per cent of adults are overweight.

The prevention index, released today, also determined more people are wearing seatbelts, avoiding drinking alcohol and driving and that more women are taking the cancer threat seriously and undergoing Pap smears and breast examinations.

De Mita gets support

ROME, May 23, (AP): Ciriaco De Mita, who was forced to resign last Friday, emerged today as the choice of the Christian Democrats to succeed himself as premier.

The party's leadership in the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate expressed their support for De Mita as President Francesco Cossiga held a second day of consultations.

Test-tube births

OSLO, May 23, (AP): Norway's first test-tube quadruplets, three girls and a boy, were born at the national hospital here just after midnight today.

Parents Kristen Lindloken and Morten Oestby Degum, of an Oslo suburb, were told in December to expect a multiple birth. It was their second attempt at in-vitro fertilisation, which first was used in Norway in 1984.

French submarine

OSLO, May 23, (Reuter): A Norwegian trawler caught a 1,500-tonne French submarine while fishing north-west of the Shetland islands, a Norwegian defence spokesman said today.



A doctor treats a home guard at a tent clinic in New Delhi, set-up to handle patients turned away from government hospitals after 3,500 doctors went on strike last week. (Reuter wirephoto)

Striking doctors set up clinics

Higher pay demanded

NEW DELHI, India, May 23, (AP): Striking government doctors treated patients at makeshift clinics outside major hospitals and distributed free medicine yesterday as negotiations continued to end their week-long agitation for more pay.

Dr Rohit Parasher, a strike leader, told reporters the clinics were operated "as an expression of our deep anguish and concern for our patients."

The indefinite strike started today by about 5,000 doctors has forced government hospitals to turn away many patients because of insufficient medical staff.

Parasher said more than 4,000 people came for treatment in the makeshift clinics, set up in tents outside nine of the city's 11 hospitals. Usually, about 32,000 people visit out patient departments of the

hospitals every day, he said.

Free medicine was given to the patients and the clinics will be operated until the strike ends, he said.

He said a doctors' team representing more than 5,000 physicians was meeting with Health Ministry officials. A ministry official, who cannot be identified under briefing rules, confirmed discussions were under way but gave no details.

Earlier wage negotiations ended in a deadlock last Monday and the next day more than 3,500 doctors in Delhi walked off. More than 1,400 doctors at government hospitals also went on strike in the cities of Chandigarh, Pondicherry, Banaras and Aligarh.

Parasher said the last round of talks held late Sunday ended "on a positive note, but it would be premature to make any commitment."

Suzman motion rejected

'Difficult to suppress'

Salute to blacks

JOHANNESBURG, May 23, (AP): Edward Perkins, the first black US Ambassador to South Africa, ended his tour of duty yesterday with a salute to the country's blacks.

Perkins gave his first news conference in 2½ years in South Africa just before boarding a plane to the United States, where he is expected to become director-general of the Foreign Service.

"The most encouraging (thing) has been to see the reaction of the black majority to the efforts of the government to stifle overt unhappiness with the status quo," he said. "While the government's been fairly successful in many cases with the state of emergency, I think the black majority seem even more determined, even stronger in making a difference."

■ South African Law and Order Minister Adrian Vlok said it was too early to repeat a three-year-old state of emergency imposed to suppress black protest against white minority rule.

■ Legislators opened debate yesterday on a bill that would enable blacks to serve on the cabinet while remaining excluded from Parliament. One opposition leader termed the government's proposal "an insult to democracy."

joined in rejecting it.

Vorster lied one of his workers, Eric Sambo, to a tree and beat him with sticks, whips and fists over a two-day period in December 1987 because Sambo accidentally killed one of Vorster's dogs with a tractor. Sambo fled the farm following the accident, and was killed after Vorster, 22 at the time, and a friend encountered him two

months later.

Styron gave Vorster a five-year sentence, suspended on condition that he pay a 3,000 rand (\$1,200) fine and pay 130 rand (\$52) a month to Sambo's widow and children for five years.

Coetsier said the sentence was appropriate because of the humiliation that Vorster would endure by having to help support a black woman.

Pakistani newspaper bombed

ISLAMABAD, May 23, (Reuter): Youths hurled a petrol bomb into the printing press of an opposition newspaper in the Pakistani capital of Islamabad yesterday, burning machines and paper, a newspaper official said.

About 40 unidentified youths, chanting slogans in favour of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP), attacked the press when yesterday's edition of the Urdu-language daily Markaz was being printed there, he said.

The bomb set off a fire that burned stocked paper and two printing machines, Markaz circulation manager Anwar Salim said.

A spokesman for the opposition Islamic Democratic Alliance (IDA) blamed the PPP for the attack and said it was carried out to punish the newspaper for its critical reports about the PPP.

But a local PPP official said his party was not involved.



Police uphold a student (picture above) while a policeman pushes back Tomasz Zieminski, leader of the Warsaw University branch of the independent NZS students union (picture below) as clashes erupt between police and students after court refused to legalise the pro-Solidarity union. (Reuter wirephotos)

Students battle police

WARSAW, May 23, (Reuter): Polish students fought police with bare fists in central Warsaw today after a court refused to legalise their independent pro-Solidarity NZS union.

About 20 protesters were detained and some were seen being beaten with batons and kicked in the stomach inside police vans.

Students packing the biggest hall in the Warsaw regional court chanted "Away with communism" when judge Danuta Widawska announced her refusal to accept the NZS statutes and register the union as a legal association.

The NZS was banned with the Solidarity free trade union and Rural Solidarity under martial law in 1981. The government promised their re-legislation last month and has already registered Solidarity and Rural Solidarity.

Widawska was shouted down as she tried to explain her ruling.

Devastating earthquake

GOLDEN, Colo., May 23, (Reuter): A "huge, devastating earthquake" measuring 8.2 on the Richter scale shook Australia's Macquarie island in the South Pacific today, a spokeswoman for the US Geological Survey said.

Speaking from the survey's National Earthquake Information Centre, she said the quake was capable of causing tremendous damage and was centred near the remote island, located about 830 miles (1,335 km) southwest of Christchurch, New Zealand.

The NZS was banned with the Solidarity free trade union and Rural Solidarity under martial law in 1981. The government promised their re-legislation last month and has already registered Solidarity and Rural Solidarity.

The violence erupted midway during Poland's parliamentary election campaign in which the opposition is taking part for the first time in more than 40 years.

Airports told to tighten security

MUNICH, May 23, (AP): West German authorities have issued a warning about possible attacks on airliners and have ordered airports in the country to tighten security, officials said today.

The warning came less than a week after Mohammed Ali Hamadi, a Lebanese Shiite Muslim, was convicted of murder and air piracy in the 1985 TWA hijacking and sentenced to life imprisonment by a Frankfurt court.

Officials said after Wednesday's verdict that Hamadi's sentence raised the danger of attacks by terrorists on West German targets.

The latest warning did not specify the reasons for the alert. It came shortly before the start of the busy summer tourist season that further strains the nation's already crowded major airports.

The warning was disclosed in a statement released by the Bavarian Transport Ministry. It said the warning came from the federal Interior Ministry and was sent to all West German regional

The jury is out at Cannes

Canadian film looks like a winner

PARIS, May 23, (Reuter): "Jesus of Montreal," a Canadian film depicting an unusual passion play, is among favourites to win the coveted Golden Palm Award at the Cannes Film Festival, which ends today.

Film critics say the Canadian movie and three or four others have shone among the 22 films in competition at the annual festival, although the 1989 Cannes vintage is a mediocre one, with no films making a major impact.

Study: pill users face cancer risk

New approach could eliminate mastectomies

SAN FRANCISCO, May 23. (AP): Women who took birth control pills while teenagers in the 1960s face about five times the usual risk of breast cancer before they reach menopause, a study concludes.

The research, conducted in Sweden, is one of several recent studies which raise concerns that the pill may increase the odds of breast cancer.

While describing their findings as "alarming," the researchers cautioned that birth control pills have changed substantially since their introduction, and newer pills may not heighten the risk of breast cancer.

The research, directed by Dr Hakan

Olsson and colleagues from University Hospital in Lund, was presented yesterday at the annual meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology.

At the meeting, an Italian specialist described a new approach to treating breast cancer that he said could virtually eliminate the need for mastectomies, which have been the standard approach to the disease for nearly a century.

Breast cancer is the leading cancer killer among women in the United States and strikes one in 10.

Olsson's study was conducted in southern Sweden, where the pill was widely used

by teen-age girls after its introduction in the 1960s.

He said that the incidence of breast cancer among women under age 40 has risen in Sweden since the advent of the pill. And while his study cannot conclusively blame the pill, "we have no other explanation for the increase of breast cancer in young women."

However, even if pill use during the 1960s has increased the chances of breast cancer, the risk is still relatively small among women before they reach menopause. Olsson said that the overall chance of breast cancer before menopause is

about one per cent, while the risk among early pill users is about five per cent.

The increased risk appears to be limited to those who began taking the pill while young. The research found no increased breast cancer among women who started on the pill after age 25 or after their first full-term pregnancy.

Olsson said 10 studies since 1983 have reported links between the pill and breast cancer.

Dr Jules Harris, director of Rush Cancer Centre in Chicago, said the Swedish study "strongly suggests that birth control pills are linked to early, pre-menopausal breast cancer."



Heads in the 'sand'

Protesters bury their heads in the dirt on Sunday during a protest against logging in a southeastern New South Wales forest. The protesters said they were parodying Australian attitudes to logging — like the ostrich they have their heads in the sand. (Reuter wirephoto)

PEOPLE AND PLACES

WASHINGTON: About 25,000 US college students are probably infected with the AIDS virus although they may show no symptoms of the disease, according to a government-funded study made public on Monday.

The study, conducted by the American College Health Association under the sponsorship of the Federal Centres for Disease Control, was meant as "an indicator, not an exact estimate," of the prevalence of the AIDS infection on US college campuses. CDC official Dr Helene Gayle told reporters. (AP) * * *

ANGELS CAMP, California: A frog named Heavy Metal is the king of the croakers.

The amphibian owned by Tom Beatty, a Bend, Ore., restaurant manager, jumped 19 feet 9 3/4 inches (6.03 m) Sunday to win the 61st annual Jumping Frog Jubilee at the Calaveras county fair.

The runner-up was Moon Shine, a croaker owned by Gary Johnson of the Angels Camp Frogs that jumped 19 feet 4 inches (5.89 m). Moon Shine was the lead going into the contest's last jump — made by Heavy Metal. (UPI) * * *

RIO GRANDE, Ohio: A fearless fowl named Judy refused to be cooped up following a record-setting flight at the 18th annual International Chicken Flying Contest.

Judy flew 542 feet, 9 inches (165.45 metres) Saturday to win the contest at the Bob Evans farm in southeast Ohio. Her flight shattered the 10-year-old mark of 302 feet, 8 inches (95.25 metres) and won \$1,100 for her owner, John Salyers.

But Salyers was unable to bring Judy to the trophy stand to share in the award ceremony. During her flight, Judy swept over the flying course, an adjacent field, and so far into the nearby woods that Salyers was unable to find her. (AP) * * *

MALIBU, California: Actor Martin Sheen is upset about "certain irresponsible media personalities" for the way they reacted to his declaration as honorary mayor of this star-studded beach community.

Sheen startled some of his neighbours by designating Malibu a nuclear-free haven for the homeless and aliens. On Sunday, he had more to say.

"I regret that my concern for the poor and the environment was so dishonestly misinterpreted and misused to perpetuate a cruel hoax on four million Americans who are already broken beyond any measure of understanding," Sheen said in a statement. (AP) * * *

EAST MORICHES, New York: A man making his first sky dive died after he jumped in the wrong position and his parachute failed to open, an instructor says.

Jack Reilly, 28, was injured fatally Saturday at Spadaro Airport. He and 18 others had just completed a sky-diving class.

Ray Maynard, president of Skydive of Long Island Inc., said Reilly jumped out of a plane at about 3,000 feet (914 metres). Jumpers are attached to a "static line" that automatically pulls the chute from the pack, he said.

Reilly jumped in the wrong position, causing the parachute to not fully open then waited too long to pull on his reserve chute, which opened about 300 feet (91 metres) from the ground. Maynard said. (AP) * * *

HUTCHINSON, Kansas: Doctors removed nearly eight ounces (227 grams) of razor blades, paper clips and metal bedsprings from the stomach of a prison inmate who swallowed the metal in a suicide attempt.

Surgeons operated on Carl Rhoades, 32, on Friday, a prison official said. Rhoades swallowed the metal on March 13.

The metal was thought to have caused a gastric ulcer but no other damage, said Les Harmon, associate director of the Kansas state industrial reformatory. (AP) * * *

NEW YORK: People trying to find out why the popular television show "Moonlighting" was canceled have at least two suspects — Bruce Willis and

Cybill Shepherd.

The show's stars apparently spent much of their time arguing with each other and with the series' creator, Glenn Gordon Caron, said an ABC-TV official quoted in this week's People magazine.

The tongue-in-cheek detective series had its final episode earlier this month, after four seasons spiced with snappy repartee and double entendres. It made a star of Willis and was a comeback vehicle for Shepherd. (AP) * * *

PRETORIA, South Africa: An African National Congress guerrilla facing execution for a 1986 bombing that killed three people has married his girlfriend in an interracial wedding ceremony on death row, a newspaper reported Monday.

Robert McFride, 25, was sentenced to death in April 1987, ten months after planting a bomb at a beachfront bar in Durban that killed three women and injured 69 people. The blast occurred two days after President P.W. Botha declared a national state of emergency. (AP) * * *

LONDON: Feel like devouring a whole or swallowing 2.5 pounds (1.1 kg) of sheep's brains in less than three minutes? Don't bother, the Guiness name.

Irving in the early 1970s duped a publisher out of \$650,000 by claiming he had compiled an autobiography of Hughes based on 100 secret meet-

LONDON: One of Britain's best regional museums that was destroyed by German bombers and paved over as a parking lot will be the focus of an unusual archaeological dig this year.

The city of Hull in the northeast England opened the site of the Old Hull Municipal Museum to the public Monday, turning it into a kind of retrospective of the 1940s, with extracts from war broadcasts and popular songs piped into the dig, said project co-ordinator David Fleming.

The six-month dig was organised by civil officials, assisted by an American museum, to save what is left of a once-fine historical collection. (AP) * * *

HOUSTON: The only known manuscript copy of Clifford Irving's phone Howard Hughes autobiography sold at auction for \$5,000.

The manuscript was sold Sunday along with other Hughes memorabilia, including an album containing several unpublished photographs of the reclusive billionaire on his record-setting, round-the-world airplane flight.

The buyer of the manuscript would not give his name.

Irving in the early 1970s duped a publisher out of \$650,000 by claiming he had compiled an autobiography of Hughes based on 100 secret meet-



Beauty queens

Cultured and cloistered, 76 beauty queens are preparing their charms for the Miss Universe competition, with the Netherlands and Venezuela hot favourites to win the \$300,000 crown.

Organisers expect a world viewing audience of more than 600 million people when the final spectacular staged on Tuesday night in Cancun, Mexican beach resort, ravaged eight months ago by Hurricane Gilbert, the strongest of the century.

Journalists who slipped past security guards to attend the pre-recorded semifinal of the event on Sunday night, when the girls paraded in swimsuits and ball gowns, said computer scores placed Miss Holland, 22, second, followed by Miss Venezuela, Liza Lung, 18, from Bogota, and Miss Berus, 21, from Rio de Janeiro.

They said the two were closely followed by Miss USA, 24-year-old Gretchen Polhemus, a cattle property broker from Fort Worth, Texas.

The winner of the contest will receive more than \$300,000 in cash and prizes and become an immediate celebrity, travelling the world for a year.

She will take the crown from 21-year-old Porntip Nakhrukanok, last year's Miss Thailand, who, according to the organisers, plans to return to her studies in psychology after her year as Miss Universe. (Reuter wirephoto)

ings. (AP) * * *

ANCHORAGE, Alaska: A grand jury on Monday indicted the former captain of the Exxon Valdez on three felony counts for his role in the nation's worst oil spill.

Joseph Hazelwood was charged with three counts of second-degree criminal mischief, said district attorney Dwayne McConnell. If convicted, he could be sentenced to up to 15 years in prison and a \$150,000 fine. (AP)

"If you have witnessed one of these competitions, they are simply gross," he told Britain's Press Association News Agency.

"When I am at parties, for example, people tell me the glutinous records are ridiculous and I just can't put my hand on my heart and defend them."

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Editor Donald McFarlin said Guinness was dropping 43 great feats of gluttony from its next edition this year because of health fears.

"If you have witnessed one of these competitions, they are simply gross," he told Britain's Press Association News Agency.

"When I am at parties, for example, people tell me the glutinous records are ridiculous and I just can't put my hand on my heart and defend them."

One result was the establishment of a group called "the network on religion and conservation," he said.

"But discussions about attitudes to nature soon

became very heated," he said.

The increased risk appears to be limited to those who began taking the pill while young. The research found no increased breast cancer among women who started on the pill after age 25 or after their first full-term pregnancy.

Olsson said 10 studies since 1983 have reported links between the pill and breast cancer.

Dr Jules Harris, director of Rush Cancer Centre in Chicago, said the Swedish study "strongly suggests that birth control pills are linked to early, pre-menopausal breast cancer."

Doctors transplant altered human cells

WASHINGTON: May 23. (Agencies): Scientists have for the first time transplanted genetically altered cells into a human, the head of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) said yesterday.

"Ultimately this new technique could open the door to studies that will use gene insertion to produce therapeutic results in a wide range of diseases," NIH director Dr James Wyngaarden said in a statement.

He said NIH cancer researchers Steven Rosenberg, Michael Blaese and W. French Anderson had transplanted special genetically engineered cancer-fighting cells into an unidentified terminal cancer patient earlier yesterday.

The cells' genetic makeup had been altered by the insertion of an altered mouse virus to mark the cells so that researchers can keep track of them.

To avoid any potential harm, the virus is deliberately crippled so that it cannot reproduce in the patient.

The cancer-fighting cells, known as tumour-infiltrating lymphocytes (TILs), are first removed from the cancer patient, tagged by the addition of the new genetic material, and then allowed to proliferate.

Finally, they are returned to the patient in hopes of helping to fight his or her cancer.

The scientists eventually plan to transplant the marked genes into another nine patients in this phase of their research.

The patients, with life expectancies of about 90 days, have given their written consent to participate in the trials and have been fully briefed on the risks, the NIH said.

The NIH researchers found last year that the TILs shrunk the tumours of more than half of 20 patients with advanced melanoma.

The marked cells will help them learn why some patients respond to the treatment while others did not, the NIH said.

In another development, the deadliest form of skin cancer, melanoma, can be stopped from spreading if it is detected and treated in its earliest stage of development, a study said today.

The average American has a 1-in-35 chance of suffering melanoma, and people with light skin or who have been exposed to excessive sunlight are at greatest risk of contracting the cancer that strikes 27,000 new victims annually.

Of 386 melanoma patients in the University of Pennsylvania study, 122 had been diagnosed during the "radical growth" or early phase of the disease and none of them suffered a fatal relapse eight to 15 years after surgery.

But doctors said only 30 percent of all melanoma cases are detected in the early stage, while the others were detected in the later vertical growth stage, which occurs within months or years of onset.

"This is the first study to show a sharp distinction between phases of the first stage of melanoma, and that survival can be assured if the disease is detected and treated in this first phase," said Dr Dupont Guerry, an associate professor of medicine at the university, who led the study.

He told a news conference at the United Nations that the idea grew out of meetings attended by leading religious figures at Assisi, Italy, in 1986, marking the 25th anniversary of the Worldwide Fund for Nature, of which Philip is the international president.

One result was the establishment of a group called "the network on religion and conservation," he said.

"But discussions about attitudes to nature soon



Endangered species

Amazonian Indian leader Raoni, travelling the world with pop star Sting, meets another endangered species on Sunday, the koala. Raoni is at the end of a 17-nation tour after lobbying to save areas of the diminishing Amazon jungle. (Reuter wirephoto)

Drug abuse cases soar

Hospitals flooded

WASHINGTON: May 23. (UPI): A government survey of 19 cities released yesterday shows hospital emergency rooms are being flooded with record numbers of cocaine cases along with increased numbers of heroin and marijuana cases.

The survey by the National Institute on Drug Abuse was released by representative Charles Rangel, Democrat of New York, chairman of the House Select Committee on Narcotics and Control, and Representative Lawrence Coughlin, Republican of Pennsylvania, ranking minority member.

Emergency room drug cases were studied in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Denver, Detroit, Los Angeles, Miami, Minneapolis, Newark, New Jersey, New Orleans, New York, Philadelphia, Phoenix, Arizona, St Louis, San Diego, San Francisco, Seattle, Dallas-San Antonio, and Washington DC.

Ten of the 19 cities showed increases in heroin emergency room cases. New Orleans showed a 300 percent increase in such cases, Philadelphia and St Louis more than doubled such cases. However, the report said the figures could be overstated due to a change in reporting criteria for heroin.

"Cocaine continues to be the most noteworthy drug of concern throughout most of the (19-city) network," the report said.

Fifteen of the 19 cities had record high numbers of cocaine emergency room cases, the survey found, while Miami and Los Angeles showed declines.

As for marijuana, 16 of the 19 cities reported increases in emergency room cases, with seven cities showing increases of more than 100 percent.

Doctors end 130 days of isolation for cave woman

CARLSBAD, New Mexico: May 23. (UPI): Doctors yesterday ended the experimental isolation of an Italian researcher who has lived in a desert cave since January without seeing or hearing another human.

Because the isolation had so disrupted her sense of time, the researcher, Stefania Follini, 27, reacted with shock and disbelief when project leader Maurizio Montalbini, using a computer linked by cable to the cave's interior, typed the current date and time.

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NEWS IN BRIEF



Rapist killing

West German Bernhard Loh (left) leaves a Turkish-Cypriot court after his mother and sister were jailed for four and three years respectively for killing a rapist who attacked them in a lonely seaside tent-site. (Reuter wirephoto)

Record arraigned

WASHINGTON, May 23, (UPI): Retired Maj. Gen. Richard Secord pleaded innocent yesterday to nine felony charges that he lied to Congress Iran-Contra committees when he said he did not expect to profit from secret arms sales directed by Oliver North.

Secord, 56, who showed no emotion during his brief arraignment, also faces an earlier conspiracy indictment stemming from a special prosecutor's Iran-Contra investigation.

Settlement sought

BONN, May 23, (KUNA): Chancellor Helmut Kohl will maintain contacts with US President George Bush and other NATO leaders in search of a settlement for the inter-NATO dispute over short-range nuclear forces (SNF). Federal Information Minister Hans Klein said last night.

Klein indicated that the government here had softened its attitude on the divisive issue after it has been pressing for East-West talks on SNF reduction.

But the minister pointed out that Bonn and Washington are still apart on how to solve the dispute, though the government here on Sunday described a US compromise proposal on SNF as a basis for an agreement.

Bomb suspected

ROME, May 23, (Reuters): An Italian commission of inquiry has revived a possibility that a bomb, not a missile, blew up an airliner over the Mediterranean in 1980 killing 81 people.

The government commission also criticised Libya for giving "evasive responses" to its inquiries, according to a summary of the report released yesterday by the office of caretaker Prime Minister Ciriaco De Mita.

Appeal rejected

WASHINGTON, May 23, (Reuters): The US Supreme Court yesterday rejected an appeal by the owners of the Italian cruise ship Achille Lauro seeking to dismiss a lawsuit by American passengers over the 1985 hijacking of the vessel.

The passengers were held captive and were terrorised by the Palestinian hijackers during the 52-hour ordeal in the Mediterranean that ended on Oct. 9, 1985.

Hijacker foiled

MOSCOW, May 23, (KUNA): Soviet official spokesman Gennady Gerasimov yesterday disclosed that the crew of a Soviet airliner had overpowered a hijacker during a trip from Luanda to Dar es Salaam.

Gerasimov did not identify the hijacker, but said he was carrying explosives and demanded to land in South Africa.

He said only the hijacker was injured in the incident.

Villagers protest

BELGRADE, May 23, (Reuters): More than 100 people from a Yugoslav village camped in front of the federal parliament in Belgrade today, staging a hunger strike to protest alleged police harassment and abuse by local authorities.

A leader of the group from the Bosnian village of Mostevac, Dzvezd Gali Jasevic, told Reuters they had come to seek federal help in a dispute with local officials and to demand the release of a fellow villager jailed last week.

Veto criticised

WELLINGTON, New Zealand, May 23, (AP): Foreign Minister Russell Marshall criticised Australia today for effectively vetoing a New Zealand-sponsored international agreement aimed at controlling mining in Antarctica.

"I just can't frankly see the point of saying no to something very substantially in the hope that you'll get something perfect and you hope that you'll get something perfect soon," Marshall said.

... It's a great pity that (it) has single-handedly vetoed the work of 20 or 30 countries over six years," he added.



Polish elections

People admire campaign posters at the Warsaw election headquarters of Solidarity which is contesting in the party-democratic parliamentary elections in June. At right Solidarity leader Lech Walesa gives the V-victory sign at a Polish election campaign rally. Walesa says he will "ride the Solidarity tank to freedom" in the elections. (Reuter wirephoto)

Bushmen fear uncertain fate in Namibia

South African soldiers face starvation and retribution

MANGETTI, Namibia, May 23, (Agencies): Antonio Sabao fears that he and his family will not survive Namibia's transition to independence.

"We are going to starve and if we don't starve then SWAPO will want to kill us," said Sabao, one of the 500 bushmen employed by South Africa's 203 battalion.

Sabao fled southern Angola, the traditional hunting lands of his Vascela group of bush people, in 1974, when they were caught in the crossfire of a war between Portuguese colonisers and the country's three liberation movements.

"Many, many of my people died. Only my brother and I managed to escape with our wives," he said through an Army interpreter.

"Now maybe we will have to run again, but we have no land here, we have nowhere to go. This land is the land of the Ju Wa bushmen," he said in the language of the Vascela.

Namibia's 33,000 bushmen, known to anthropologists as the San people, are divided into five physically distinct groups who each speak a different language.

The homeland of Sabao's Vascela people is in southern Angola and Namibia's eastern Caprivi Strip. The 203 battalion base at Mangetti is in the traditional homeland of the Ju Wa, who hunt the eastern border region of Namibia and neighbouring Botswana.

The bushmen of 203 battalion, renowned trackers and tough fighters through the last 15 years of Pretoria's 23-year war against the rebel South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO), have handed their guns and their webbing.



Sergeant Antonio Sabao, who fled the Angolan civil war in 1974 and joined the Bushman battalion, sees little hope. (Reuter wirephoto)

South Africa is obliged in terms of the United Nations peace plan for Namibia to disband its ethnic forces in the territory. Their salaries of 600 rand (\$250) a month will be paid until independence elections in November.

Hundreds more bushmen face a similar fate at

probably dozens of other bushmen. There is no provision for these people. All they have to look forward to is famine," he said.

"If the political status quo remains more or less intact after November then I think the various government departments will do their best to prevent famine and starvation," said Battalion Commander Scholtz van Wyk.

"But if there is a totally new government then I don't know what will happen. If SWAPO gets in there could be retribution against these people," Van Wyk said.

An official of the British Council of Churches was allowed to enter Namibia yesterday after being detained overnight at the airport.

Gerhard Roux, spokesman for the territorial government, said the Rev. Brian Brown was issued a permit allowing him to stay in Namibia for 12 days. Brown said Brown arrived Sunday without proper travel documents and was held at the airport police station after refusing to return to Johannesburg, the transit point on his journey from London.

Brown, a former South African anti-apartheid activist, had been invited by Namibian churches to observe the United Nations-supervised transition to independence from South Africa.

The 50-year-old Methodist minister left South Africa after the government imposed bans on his political activities in 1977. He now oversees Africa-related issues for the British Council of Churches.

In a separate development, a United Nations official said yesterday that a black member of the UN Monitoring Force was assaulted by a local white man at a restaurant.

French not eager to fight

Pacifist attitude

PARIS, May 23, (Reuters): Just one French citizen in five would defend West Germany if the country's closest ally were invaded by the Soviet Union, an opinion poll revealed yesterday.

And most people would rather negotiate than fight if France itself were threatened.

The findings are likely to shock Bonn and Paris, which never let slip a chance to display their postwar reconciliation and commitment to joint defence.

Results published by the Paris daily *Le Monde* also showed that most French people perceived a military threat from Arab countries and Iran as outstripping that from Moscow.

As for "serious risk of world war," only 28 per cent considered that likely in the next few years compared with a sanguine 68 per cent who thought it would not happen.

Le Monde said the optimists were roughly twice as numerous as in a similar poll eight years ago.

Asked what France should do if Warsaw Pact armies invaded West Germany, two per cent said "use nuclear weapons," 19 per cent said "defend Germany but without nuclear arms" and 21 per cent said "remain totally neutral."

But in a response likely to disturb policymakers in both France and West Germany, 46 per cent said France should "try to negotiate with the Soviet Union and not enter into military conflict."

A further 12 per cent expressed no opinion.

Gorbachev gets top nomination

Party debates corruption

MOSCOW, May 23, (Reuters): Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has won the Communist Party's support to take on the country's new executive presidency at the head of a more powerful parliament.

A plenary session of the party's Central Committee, meeting yesterday three days before the parliament's inaugural session, also discussed an investigation into high-level corruption.

The agenda also included the national economy and the territorial dispute over the enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh, according to a list of 35 speakers at yesterday's meeting issued by the Tass news agency.

None of the addresses was made public and both Tass and the evening television news gave short accounts of proceedings.

Gorbachev's nomination for the presidency had been virtually assured. But there have been predictions that an alternative candidate would stand against him at the opening of the new parliament, the 2,250-seat Congress of People's Deputies.

The Soviet leader has held the largely ceremonial post of president since last October. The new post entails significant powers — overseeing legislation, naming the prime minister and decision-making in foreign and defence policy.

He will head the Supreme Soviet — a smaller chamber of more than 500 members to be elected at the opening session and which will be in session for eight months a year.

The Soviet Supreme Court said yesterday that citizens may not be thrown in jail for expressing



Gorbachev's support

ing truthful criticism of officials, limiting the scope of a new decree widely criticised by reformers and dissidents alike.

The court reviewed a decree passed by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet on April 8 because citizens already have been arrested under differing interpretations of the law, according to a report distributed by the Tass news agency.

Authorities in the disrupted Azerbaijani region of Nagorno-Karabakh have renewed an appeal for its transfer to Armenia and for an end to direct rule from Moscow, the official Tass news agency said yesterday.

Tass also reported that the situation in the region — where 91 people died last year in ethnic clashes — remained difficult, with factories and building sites on strike.

Many refugees streaming into the capital Stepanakert from elsewhere in the enclave were without jobs or homes.

Disband NATO Warsaw Pact: call

MOSCOW, May 23, (Agencies): The Soviet Union has suggested to NATO nations that both the Western alliance and the Warsaw Pact be disbanded.

The Warsaw Treaty states propose disbanding both military alliances at the same time, starting with disbanding of their military forces." Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov said at a news briefing.

Gerasimov said the full appeal to members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation would be published in Soviet newspapers.

The 16-nation North Atlantic Treaty Organisation was scheduled to hold a summit on its 40th anniversary next week.

It was not the first time East European officials have broached the idea, but yesterday's statement comes as NATO is divided over the depth of changes in the Soviet Union.

West Germany advocates talks on the elimination of tactical nuclear weapons in Europe, while the United States and Britain say no such talks are possible while the Soviet Union and its allies have overwhelming superiority in the battlefield weapons and conventional forces.

Gerasimov said yesterday the East European alliance was suggesting expanding arms negotiations to all weapons systems, including naval weapons.

He said the appeal was being made because times have changed since the post-war era when the two alliances were formed.

One of the proposals they put to us was that the embassy should produce a list of who these 205 should be," Tucker said.

"We explained that the nature of our society is such that many of these people do not work for the government. We told them we could talk about the embassy but we could not talk for anyone else."

He added: "At the end of our meeting there was a great deal that was not clear. It will take some time for us to get full clarity."

The quota was imposed after Britain ordered out eight Soviet diplomats and three journalists in the Soviet Union, indicating the cuts would affect mostly Soviet nationals working for them.

In London, a Soviet embassy counsellor called the British expulsions "very deplorable, unfriendly and provocative, and very much contrary to the trust that has just been built up between our two countries."

"All the representatives,

including the journalists, were not involved in anything wrong," he said. "They were doing their jobs."

But Howe told the House of Commons: "We shall not turn a blind eye to unacceptable activity which threatens our national security and so the safety of our citizens."

"Because of the contin-

British embassy asked to cut staff

Soviets have not changed: Thatcher

MOSCOW, May 23, (Agencies): Soviet authorities have told the British embassy in Moscow to start cutting staff at British institutions after both countries expelled 11 of each other's nationals, the embassy said today.

Spokesman Andy Tucker said the embassy was told the number of its employees and those at other organisations must be cut from 375 to 205 to bring them in line with staff levels at Soviet offices in London.

The embassy has estimated that only 150 or so British diplomats, journalists and businesspeople are currently accredited in the Soviet Union, indicating the cuts would affect mostly Soviet nationals working for them.

Tucker said many issues linked to the quotas were still unclear — notably, how the embassy could be expected to apply them to other offices run by British businesses and journalists.

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Peskov, with his wife and children, speaks to journalists in London. (Reuter wirephoto)

of this kind of conduct that it is necessary for us to remain vigilant in all respects toward the conduct of the Soviet Union."

Britain is not alone in expelling Soviets for misconduct, he said, adding that 248 Soviets had been expelled in the last five years worldwide and 24 in the last 12 months from 12 countries.

Howe said the Soviet decision to retaliate "shows how far they still have to go to live up to standards of behaviour which the world regards as normal."

Still, he promised that Britain would continue to work to sustain improvements in bilateral relations.

Since Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev came to power in 1985, the Soviets have matched expulsions one-for-one.

A Soviet journalist who is among 11 Russians expelled by Britain has denied he is a spy and challenged the British government to explain why it was ordering him out.

"I was posted here as a journalist and worked as a journalist. To suggest I am a spy is absolute nonsense," Igor Peskov, political correspondent of the official Soviet Tass news agency, told a reporter in London.

Earlier yesterday, opposition leaders visited supporters in a bid to revitalise the campaign to oust Noriega.

Guillermo Endara, the civil democratic opposition alliance presidential candidate in the elections, toured factories in Panama City with his two vice-presidential running mates, Ricardo Arias Calderon and Guillermo Ford.

The visits, Ford said, were designed to restore the

MIDEAST

MIDDLE EAST NEWS

Combat plane

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 23. (AP): An Israeli newspaper reported today that Israel aircraft industries is secretly developing a new combat plane, but a spokesman said the company was only developing new technologies and not a combat aircraft.

The head of Al Hamishmar said in an undistributed report that the new project was launched mainly to use technologies developed for the Lavi fighter plane. The US-funded Lavi was scrapped two years ago by Israel's cabinet amid American pressure because it was running over budget.

Detainees freed

AMMAN, May 23. (AP): Authorities have released another 13 political activists arrested after last month's price increases, a security official said yesterday.

The official, insisting on anonymity, said nine Jordan University students detained after a trouble swept dozens of towns and in which at least nine people were killed. He gave no details on the others.

He confirmed Jordanian newspaper reports yesterday that the 13 were released Sunday.

Interior Minister Salem Massadeh said earlier this month that 55 political detainees had been released following King Hussein's announcement that all detainees linked to the rioting "were on their way home."

Gunmen rob bank

EBEL-SAKI, Lebanon, May 23. (Reuter): Gunmen yesterday robbed a bank serving Norwegian troops in Israel's south Lebanon security zone, getting away with \$54,000.

Norwegian military officials said armed Lebanese stormed the unguarded bank in the village of Ebel-Saki, bank for some 250 Norwegian troops of the UN interim Forces in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

The Norwegians are among 5,800 troops from nine countries which deployed in Lebanon in 1978 to supervise an Israeli withdrawal.

Israeli troops and their surrogate South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia patrol the security zone, set up by the Jewish state in 1985 to protect its northern borders from guerrilla attacks.

Hostage release

TYRE, Lebanon, May 23. (UPI): The parents of a Belgian hostage yesterday paid a fruitless visit to a Palestinian refugee camp near this port city where their son was kidnapped a year ago in a personal initiative to try to free their loved one.

In Beirut, the British ambassador demanded the immediate release of 17 foreigners, including nine Americans and four Britons, and maintained his country will not make deals with terrorists.

Paul Coops and his wife Louisa, who has resided in the port city of Sidon, 24 miles (38 km) south of Beirut, since their arrival in Lebanon last Wednesday, drove to the refugee camp of Rashidiyah, southeast of Tyre, 46 miles south of Beirut, escorted by Amal militiamen.

Patriarch elected

BAGHDAD, May 23. (Reuter): A synod of 16 bishops from Iraq and abroad elected a new patriarch for the Christian Chaldeans of the world after eight days of seclusion, church sources said.

Iraqi Bishop Rafael Bedewadi, 67, was elected successor to patriarch Mar Pole Shikho who died last month aged 82, they added yesterday. He will be known as Rafael the First.

An estimated 750,000 Chaldeans, five per cent of the 17-million mainly Muslim population, live in Iraq. Chaldeans also live in the United States, Europe, Egypt, Turkey, Iran, Lebanon and Australia.

460 killed

KHARTOUM, May 23. (Reuter): Sudan said today that 460 people were killed and 137 wounded in clashes between rival tribes this month. It blamed neighbouring Chad for fuelling the unrest.

Scores of villages were burned down in black. For tribesmen fought Arab tribes in the western region of Darfur over water and grazing, a cabinet statement said. Seven policemen were among those killed.

"Chad uses the tension to serve its objectives and began to fuel the conflict both morally and physically," the statement said without giving details.

Life term

ROME, May 23. (UPI): A Rome assize court sentenced Palestinian Abu Al Zomar to life imprisonment today for organising a grenade and incendiary attack on the main Rome synagogue Oct. 9, 1982.

In the attack on Jewish worshippers outside the synagogue near the banks of the River Tiber, Stefano Tache, a two-year-old boy, was killed and 37 other people wounded by bullets and grenade splinters.

Spanish edition

MADRID, May 23. (Reuter): A Spanish edition of Salman Rushdie's controversial novel "The Satanic Verses" went on sale today, produced jointly by 18 publishing firms.

Barcelona-based firm Sen Barral dropped plans to publish the book in February amid an international storm over the novel, which Muslims consider blasphemous. The jointly published version was encouraged by the Spanish Culture Ministry.

Articles banned

ANKARA, May 23. (Reuter): An Ankara court on Monday banned the national daily Sabah from continuing a series of articles on alleged business deals by Prime Minister Turgut Ozal's wife Semra, the newspaper's chief editor said.

Editor Zafer Mulyi said the mass-circulation Istanbul-based paper would appeal the decisions, which ordered a half to the series after its second installment.

The Ankara court said the series amounted to defamation of character.

Israel rejects call for peace by Baker

Shamir meets Thatcher

TEL AVIV, May 23. (Reuter): Israel today rebuffed a call by US Secretary of State James Baker to renounce dreams of a greater Israel and half Jewish settlements in occupied areas.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, in London on an official visit, told Israel Radio in London: "I do not know how one could talk of a greater Israel. We are very small country." "The settlements do not have an impact on peace," Israel's Ma'ariv newspaper quoted him as saying.

Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, in a radio interview from Brussels, said: "There is indeed a dream of a greater Israel and the past has shown that Israel's dreams can come true."

Baker, in his first major speech on Middle East policy, told America's leading pro-Israel lobby

yesterday that Israel should lay aside "the unrealistic vision of a greater Israel. Forswear annexation. Stop settlement activity ... in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip."

Greater Israel, as generally understood, comprises Israel in its pre-1967 borders plus the West Bank and Gaza Strip, captured from Jordan and Egypt. The boundaries correspond roughly to those of biblical Israel considered by religious, nationalist Jews as their birthright.

Shamir told a London news conference: "We cannot agree to what he said about some possibilities of Israel in the future, or even issues not related directly to the peace initiative."

Shamir said: "I don't think that these issues on which we differ are anything to do with our proposed peace initiative."

Shamir is proposing that the 1.7 million Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip would elect negotiators to hold talks with Israel on interim rule and a long-term peace settlement.

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Government sources in Muslim West Beirut said the prospects that Hoss and Aoun would be invited to Casablanca

were dim.

Aoun suggested that the role of a UN peacekeeping force in south Lebanon should be extended throughout the country and that Arab countries should send units to join it under UN command.

Shamir's spokesman said Thatcher did not press Israel to talk to the PLO, although Britain has upgraded its ties with the organisation and believes PLO chairman Yasser Arafat is a necessary ingredient in the quest for peace.

Thatcher did, however, reiterate her belief that Israel must give up occupied territories in return for peace, the land-for-peace option which the PLO believes is the basis for a peaceful settlement but which Shamir rejects.

The PLO today welcomed the tone of Baker's statement but said it only repeated known policies.

PLO executive committee member Yasser Abed Rabbo said: "The words are tough but there's nothing new. The same things were said by (former Secretary of State George) Shultz last September."

He expressed disappointment that Baker called for talks between Israel and Palestinians in the occupied territories, without mentioning the PLO.

Because of US objections, the UN Security Council abandoned an effort to issue a statement criticising Israeli actions in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and will now consider what alternative action to take.

Rebuffed by the US and Britain, Shamir will seek Spain's support for his peace plan during a three-day trip, starting tomorrow.

They also cite accumulated frustration at Israel's inability to end the uprising by force or political means.

"I have the gut feeling that people are reaching some sort of threshold," said political analyst Mark Heller of the Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies.

"Even those whose analytical thinking leads them one way are going another way emotionally."

While the violent trend strikes fear in many Palestinians living near settlements or working daily in Israel, it is also a source of concern to Israelis.

"Mr. Rabin expressed an interest in seeing that the United States maintains its military commitment to Israel," a US defense official said after Rabin and Cheney met for more than an hour at the Defense Department.

Secretary Cheney said he would do his best to maintain the current level, said the official, who asked not to be identified.

President Chaim Herzog has warned Israelis against taking the law into their own hands, as Jewish settlers demanded a right to deal harshly with crowds of Arab stone-throwers.

Facing rising casualties, some of the 70,000 settlers who live in the occupied Arab territories have sought a vigilante role toward the Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule.

Inside Israel, police searched for motorists who hurled a rock at a passing car, killing the Arab driver.

Jewish violence soars

Antifada is the response

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 23. (Reuter): As Arab anti-Jewish violence has crossed Israel's green line border from the occupied territories Israeli civilians have begun striking back in kind with the tools of the 17-month-old revolt — stones, petrol bombs and burning tyres.

The death of an Arab driver hit by a rock in Israel is the most serious in a rising trend of violent incidents against Palestinians, what analysts call an "antifada" response to the Palestinian intifada (uprising).

"This is an expression of anger and frustration. We are going to see more of it," said Reuven Gal, a psychologist who studies effects of the uprising on Israeli society.

Police suspect the West Bank villager struck on the head last Monday by a rock near Kiryat Gat in southern Israel was the victim of random stoning by Jews.

Israeli youths have almost daily stoned Arab cars from the occupied Gaza Strip near the Israeli coastal cities Ashdod and Ashkelon since the body of Army paratrooper Avi Sasportas, believed kidnapped and killed by Arabs, was found his month.

This week Palestinians who succeeded in escaping enforcers of a general strike in the Gaza Strip to go to work in Israel were stopped by a wall of burning tyres lit by Jews south of Ashkelon.

Anti-Arab tension reached such a pitch that Ashdod Mayor Zvi Zilker asked 20 Palestinian merchants not to come to a weekly open market. He says he also hopes to replace the 80 Gaza municipal workers with Israelis.

Confrontations between Palestinians and Jewish settlers in the West Bank have soared in the past two months.

Settlers in the Hebron now commonly smash car and shop windows when they are stoned, and at times open fire.

In Ariel settlement residents have driven convoys into nearby Arab villages, stoning houses and leaving graffitiied warning signs. Last month they threw a firebomb into an Arab store in Bidya.

Even in Maale Adumim just outside Occupied Jerusalem, more a suburb than a West Bank settlement, hundreds of residents stormed through Ayzariya village setting fire to cars and trucks on Sunday after Arabs stoned a Maale Adumim car.

The car crashed, injuring a couple and their two babies.

Analysts attribute the wave of Jewish violence to the spread of anti-Israel attacks over the green line. Sasportas' killing, the suspected kidnapping of another soldier and a stabbing on Jerusalem's main shopping street this month that killed two.

They also cite accumulated frustration at Israel's inability to end the uprising by force or political means.

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Iran's constitution council divided on changes

NICOSIA, May 23. (Agencies): A committee drawing up amendments to Iran's constitution has yet to approve either of two proposals on the structure of the executive branch, an Iranian newspaper said yesterday.

The first vote on the two proposals — one eliminating the post of the prime minister in favour of a strong president, and the other keeping a figurehead president with most power entrusted to the prime minister — was inconclusive, said the English-language daily Tehran Times.

The Ankara court said the series amounted to defamation of character.

Spiritual leader Ayatollah Khomeini ordered the committee a month ago to formulate amendments to the 1979 constitution to overcome shortcomings in the way Iran was governed.

The committee, composed of 22 Muslim clerics and three laymen, was given two months to complete its work. The result is due to be put to a referendum.

In the power struggle within Iran, Khomeini's son, Ahmad, has emerged as prime contender to inherit his father's auth-

A day of celebration: Arafat

(Continued from Page 1)

Syria has in the past said it would only withdraw its troops if Israel quit a south-declared security zone in south Lebanon.

Assad and Khaddafi came to Casablanca after two days of talks with the presidents of Algeria and Tunisia, first in Tripoli and then in the west Algerian city of Oran.

Although the two North African leaders are not counted among the radicals, they were apparently trying to smooth the way for a successful host for King Hassan their partner in the five-nation Arab Maghreb Union.

Delegates said Assad might well need them to try to blunt any anti-Syrian offensive at the summit.

Mubarak told reporters he did not rule out a separate meeting with Assad at the summit.

But he remarked sharply that Assad was his junior when they were both air force officers during the brief union between Syria and Egypt under the late President Gamal Abdel Nasser.

Reflecting the moderates' delight at Egypt's return, Arafat told reporters after visiting Mubarak: "This is an incomparable day for the Arab nation. It is a day of celebration."

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were dim.

Aoun suggested that the role of a UN peacekeeping force in south Lebanon should be extended throughout the country and that Arab countries should send units to join it under UN command.

A force of 300 Arab ceasefire observers suggested by league mediators has failed to arrive in Lebanon because the league believes the ceasefire is still not firmly in place.

Asked how long the Christian enclave could survive with the Syrian and Druze blockade in force, Aoun said: "The situation will not continue indefinitely. Today we are waiting for a decision (from the Arab League) but we will certainly do more things."

A fuel shortage has closed 80 per cent of Lebanese factories. Thousands of people in East Beirut have spent much of the day searching for petrol and food.

Aoun declined to confirm or deny reports that his Army had received missiles which could reach Damascus. But he said he would never fire such weapons into Syria.

"My war is in Lebanon. I would not launch them even against military targets (in Syria). Even if I had an atomic bomb I would not use it," said Aoun.

"I am with the sovereignty of Lebanon, not half of it. I am with the total independence of Lebanon, not half of it. I am with the unity of Lebanon, not half of it. This is not a speech but a way of

Kuwait aid to intifada largest in Arab world

\$7.6 million last year

By Nirmala Janssen
Arab Times staff

Of the \$20 million donated by Arab countries to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) in 1988 to support the Palestinian intifada, Kuwait donated the highest amount — \$6.5 million — in addition to the regular annual contribution of \$1.1 million.

In a press conference held yesterday at the premises of the United Nations Development Project (UNDP) in Kuwait, Giorgio Giacomelli, Commissioner-General of UNRWA said that the agency which was established after the 1948 conflict between Israel and the Arabs to provide relief to 700,000 Palestinian refugees in Jordan, West Bank, Gaza, Syria and Lebanon is running out of emergency funds and might not be able to sustain relief operations.

UNRWA is practically the only inter-governmental organisation in occupied Palestine and it feels a responsibility to assist and protect Palestinian refugees, Giacomelli said.

The regular UNRWA budget which is based on voluntary contributions from countries across the globe is \$230 million with the United States providing \$61 million, the European Commission \$50 million. Other major donors are Italy, Japan and the Nordic countries.

Sixty per cent of the regular budget is spent on education, 20 per cent on health, 10 per cent on food relief to the really needy and 10 per cent on common services and administration.

Giacomelli, who arrived on Sunday from fund raising visits to Qatar and the United Arab Emirates said that UNRWA requires in addition to the regular budget \$22 million for emergency relief for both Palestinians and the Lebanese and \$65 million for a three-year refugee camps improvement scheme.

Giacomelli will meet with HH the Amir tomorrow to convey UNRWA gratitude for Kuwait's support and hold further talks.

Elaborating on the problems that the 14,000 relief agency staff in occupied Palestine face Giacomelli said that Israeli soldiers beat up relief workers, invade premises and generally violate the Geneva convention which allows UNRWA the authority to operate schools, health clinics and provide food assistance.

In Lebanon Giacomelli said, local staff are threatened, kid-



Giorgio Giacomelli

napped or killed.

Apart from the host countries Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Egypt who took in Palestinian refugees since 1948, seven per cent of the regular UNRWA budget was donated by other Arab countries in 1980 which unfortunately went down to three per cent in 1986.

Two Arab League resolutions were passed in 1986 and in 1988 when all participants accepted the fact that seven per cent of the UNRWA budget would come from the Arab countries, at the level of 1980.

The resolutions have not been put into practice yet but since the beginning of the intifada 18 months ago Arab countries have provided fresh funds.

Besides Kuwait, Iraq has donated \$2.8 million, Abu Dhabi \$3 million, Libya \$2.8 million, Qatar \$2 million and the Islamic Development Bank \$1 million.

Saudi Arabia, through the Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organisation contributed over \$6.5 million for a three-year development project in addition to \$1.2 million in regular annual donations.

Giacomelli further said that UNRWA will hold a meeting in Vienna this autumn to allow donor countries to study, plan projects and provide advice and comments on the disbursement of funds.

New university admission policy meets approval

DEAN of Registration and Admission at Kuwait University Dr Mustafa Maaraifi has said that the deans committee approved the admission policy of the university for the next academic year 1989/90 during its last meeting.

He added that committee decided to admit 3,000 students into different faculties of the university, 1,500 of them for the science section of SSC and the other 1,500 students from the arts section. The faculty of science will admit 700 students, the faculty of education 530 students, the faculty of arts 470, the faculty of commerce 438, the engineering faculty 330, faculty of law 200, allied health science 130 students, medicine 90 students and

the faculty of sharia 112 students.

Dr Maaraifi pointed out that 80 per cent of the admitted students will be Kuwaitis while the remaining 20 per cent will be distributed among non-Kuwaitis according to a certain classification. He added that non-Kuwaiti relatives of the Kuwaiti citizens will be treated as Kuwaiti nationals.

He said that Kuwaiti students who apply for admission at the university should have more than 62.2 per cent of grades at the science section of SSC and 68.4 per cent for students in the arts section. The expatriates should have 90 per cent for arts and 94 per cent for

science. GCC citizens should have 70 per cent at least in both sections, Iraqis and Yemenis 85 per cent and 80 per cent for sons of military personnel, he said.

Dr Maaraifi said that the registration and admission office will receive applications from students between June 17-21 at the exhibition hall in Khaldiyah. The names of admitted students will be announced in the first week of July.

He added that office will also receive applications from students who work in the public sector in order to study their cases according to social research and survey made by the dean of students.

The Kuwaiti students who are study-

ing abroad and want to transfer to Kuwait University can do so if they complete a full academic year in foreign universities with an average of 2.33 points in universities that follow the 4 points system or the equivalent in other systems, he said.

The non-Kuwaiti students studying abroad who want to transfer to Kuwait University should have completed all their studies: primary, intermediate and secondary in Kuwait. They also should complete one full academic year abroad with at least average of 3.5 points system or the equivalent in other systems, he said.

Maaraifi pointed out that Kuwaiti graduates of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training can apply for admission at Kuwait University in the majors that are same as theirs provided they get at least 3 points in the 4 points system 6 points in the 9 points system. The graduates of the health studies from all nationalities can be admitted at the faculty of allied health sciences and nursing provided they get 2.67 points in the 4 points system.

The graduates of the authority who are admitted to the university will not be able to change their majors they were accepted for, he said.

UN varsity seeking backing

KUWAIT, May 23, (KUNA): UN University Rector Hector Gurgulino De Souza said Tuesday his current visit to Kuwait is aimed at setting the ground for scientific and cultural co-operation with the Kuwaiti scientific institutions.

He is also seeking financial and scientific backing to the Tokyo-based UN University, he said in an interview with the Kuwait News Agency after meeting Higher Education Minister Dr Ali Al Shamari.

De Souza said he was content with his talks with Kuwaiti officials who had expressed willingness to lend support for the UN body.

Since his arrival here Sunday, De Souza has met also with officials from the Kuwait University, the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science and the Kuwaiti Institute for Scientific Research.

He said his talks centered on co-operation between those institutions and the UN University and its affiliate colleges, particularly the one recently set up in the Netherlands specializing in modern technologies.

De Souza, a Brazilian physicist who has held several top academic posts and authored a number of books on technology development, said Kuwait can assist the UN University in several areas.

He added that he was impressed by advanced scientific institutions in the country and stressed he was looking forward for an agreement that initiates co-operation between the two sides.

The university rector has also met with Education Minister Anwar Al Nouri, Foreign Undersecretary Suleiman Majed Al Shaheen.



Anniversary celebration

Friends of Dame Violet Dickson, including British Ambassador Peter Hinchcliffe, Monday held a party at her home to celebrate the 60th anniversary of Dame Violet's arrival in Kuwait.

Comprehensive information

Municipality preparing 'A to Z' of Kuwait

KUWAIT Municipality is currently involved in preparing a guidebook on the areas of Kuwait and its suburbs, a local daily reported.

It added that the guidebook is to be arranged alphabetically and will contain the necessary data about the country including the names of streets, institutions and other facilities.

It added that the directory, titled 'Kuwait Guidebook from "A" to "Z", will be considered a reference for tourists, visitors and diplomats in addition to its importance for citizens and expatriates.

The guidebook is to be set up in accordance with the directives issued by the Minister of State for Municipal Affairs, Mohammed Al Sayed Abdulmohsen Al Rifaie, the daily said.

A statement issued by the department said that complaints submitted by citizens against contractors who carry out their building projects are increasing which causes financial and technical disputes.

The department is contemplating supervising and organizing the sector of small contractors who are not registered at the Central Tenders Committee.

It also gives licences for new buildings and supervises them during construction. It added that the municipality appealed to citizens on several occasions to contract with licensed contractors to protect their interests and rights. Citizens can benefit from instructions and advices of officials of the department in this respect, the statement said.

In another development, the Assistant Undersecretary for Allocation and Application Affairs at National Housing Authority (NHA) Ahmed Samaka was quoted as saying that the authority in compliance

with the instructions of HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdallah and Chairman of the Higher Housing Council to minimize the waiting period for allocating houses to citizens had started its programme by distributing 2,000 plots in Waqfa.

In an interview with a local daily, Samaka called on citizens who wish to have a house either in Kheirane or Waqfa to register their names with the authority.

He disclosed that a new batch of houses will be distributed at the Qurain area soon in addition to another batch to be distributed in Funtas. The authority will also distribute a number of flats at Sabah Al Salem suburb and Al Sawaber Complex, in addition to about 200 plots at the Qurain area, Samak said.

In another development, the court of higher appeal began its proceedings in the double-murder case in which a laboratory attendant at a government school, Samir J. murdered a young woman and her child and set their apartment on fire in a bid to hide his crime.

The incident took place on Feb 28 last year. Earlier this year, the criminal court, a first degree court, sentenced the criminal to life imprisonment and ordered him to pay KD5,000 as temporary compensation to the woman's husband.

The criminal court based its sentence on eyewitness accounts and on the confessions of the defendant during interrogations and later in the court.

The court also heard the testimonies of security men who followed the case and arrested the defendant. The court's verdict was based on its finding that the condition of "premeditation" was lacking.

The court was told that the defendant went to the apartment of the deceased in Salmine with the intention of committing a sexual crime with her and as he found no response from her, murdered her. The court was also told that the man was under the influence of his "sexual desires" at the time of committing the murder.

The general prosecution was not satisfied with this judgement and appealed to the higher appeal court, stressing that the "premeditation" factor was present. The defendant himself also appealed and demanded acquittal as he claimed that his confessions to the prosecution were taken under pressure.

DR Louis Kamel from Kuwait University Psychology Department has prepared a study on students behavioural problems in which he pointed out that it is difficult to separate students controlled behaviour from the behaviour of the group of youths which he belongs to.

He added that placing larger responsibility on a group leads to disciplinary problems. He said that disputes established from personal relations often are reflected into a form of disciplinary problem.

Kamel gave a number of proposals to achieve discipline and pointed out that urging youths to join work groups is a good method to develop team spirit.

He called upon teachers to build a democratic atmosphere of discipline and to assist students in solving their personal problems.

Kamel added that students behavioural problems are the result of a number of factors and that these factors should be explored to find solutions.

Researches conducted in America at a number of high schools revealed that only 10 per cent of students disciplinary problems are due to pure individual factors. On the other hand, 90 per cent of cases require a psychological analysis. He said that despite the fact that researchers do not yet have data on the Kuwaiti school environment, in addition to the difficulty witnessed while generalising previous studies, researchers should not ignore the data accumulated from foreign studies.

He believes that imposing punishment is not necessary in most cases but achieving self discipline is vital.

Teachers are held responsible for the behaviour and growth of students as a team in the classroom. Disputes created by personal relations may lead to discipline problems among adults groups inside and outside the school limits. He added that such disciplines do not represent a challenge to school administration, but reflect the stress and confusion of relations among adults groups, Kamel concluded.

UMO health seminar

THE United Malayalee Organisation (UMO) conducted a health seminar, the first of its kind, in the Indian embassy hall on May 18. The UMO chairman briefed the audience on the seminar and introduced Dr T.K. Kuruvilla, a consultant physician at the Al Sabah hospital, Dr S. Radhakrishnan, consultant at the Amiri hospital and Dr K.C. Aboobacker, consultant at the paediatric section of the Al Sabah hospital to the audience. The general secretary welcomed the specialised doctors and the audience to the seminar.

Dr T.K. Kuruvilla explained in his brief lecture how hypertension, diabetes and uric acid affect the heart. He also described the symptoms as well as the precautions to be taken against heart disease and the food to be avoided.

Dr S. Radhakrishnan explained in his lecture the common gastro intestinal problems such as ulcers and gas formation experienced by a lot of people in

Kuwait and means of prevention.

Dr K.C. Aboobacker explained the breathing problems in children which are commonly found in Kuwait.

After the lectures the team of doctors answered all questions put by the audience.

Team spirit needed

Delinquency caused by peer pressure

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Cases of maid abuse rising alarmingly

(Continued from Page 1)

Asian diplomat told of a Sri Lankan girl burned in 46 places with a heated iron rod by an employer, and of another Sri Lankan maid who was not paid for four years.

In Kuwait last year, a woman was sentenced to five years' hard labour for killing her maid. Death was attributed to "complications from brutal torture and utter lack of treatment of injuries."

In April, Rena Linda Yenda,

a Filipina, was executed in Riyadih for suffocating the baby girl she was tending. She also attacked the girl's mother and younger brother with an iron bar after they accused her of stealing money.

Asian diplomats are alarmed by these cases but noted that the majority of women from their countries who work in the Gulf are not abused.

"The brutal treatment of maids has increased in the last four to five years," the Arab Times reported recently.

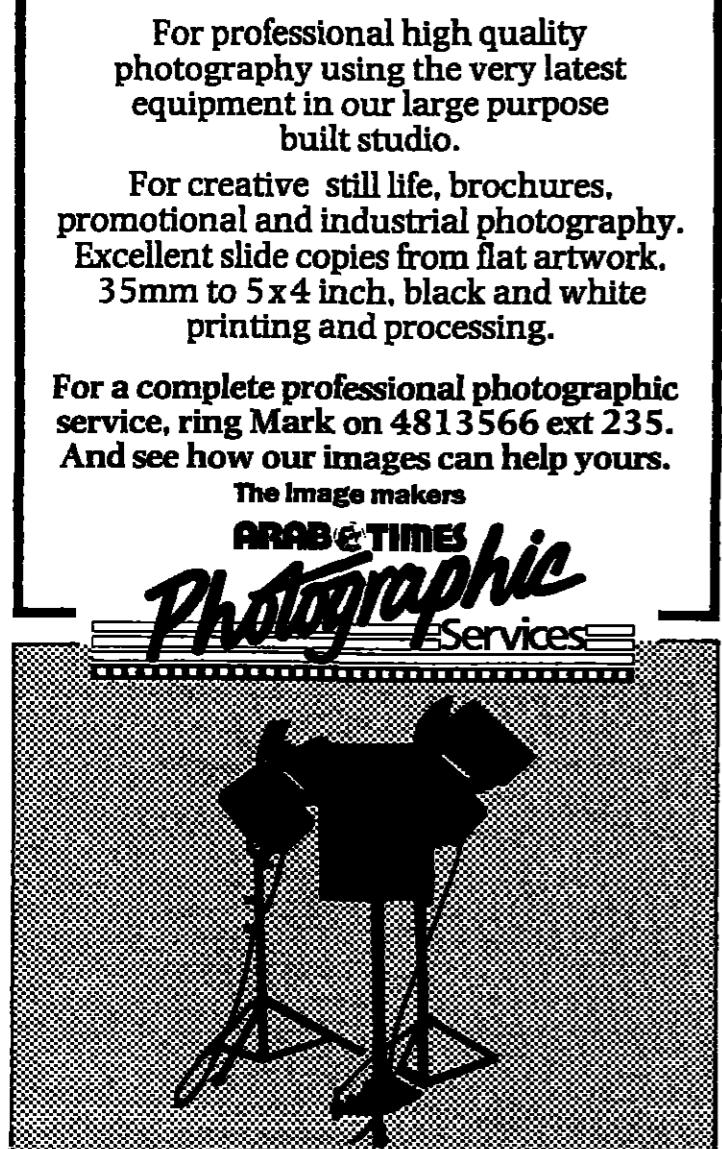
Planning estimated there are 196,000 maids in the tiny country.

Diplomats said known cases of abuse have risen with the big influx of Filipinas and Sri Lankans seeking jobs in recent years.

Some employers are culturally ill-prepared to deal with women from a different society, an Indian diplomat noted.

Official estimates vary on the number of Asian maids in the Gulf.

Kuwait's Higher Council for



**Amir meets governors**

His Highness the Amir Tuesday received Interior Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah and governors of Jahra, Farwaniya, Hawalli and Ahmad. Each governor was accompanied by five citizens of his governorate to discuss with HH the fulfilment of their demands. HH told them the government is very keen to exert effort to provide each citizen with all basic needs in the various governorates through setting special councils and funds.

Industry needs a clearer plan

Commerce committee submits report

By Mahmoud Abedin

KUWAIT'S Chamber of Commerce and Industry has received the final reports from the five committees it recently formed to study the sectors of finance, real estate, construction, industry and commerce in Kuwait.

The studies are primarily intended to pinpoint the main obstacles of each sector and proposing recommendations.

A reliable source told Al Seiyassat Arab Times that the Chamber of Commerce and Industry is currently co-ordinating the reports of the five committees with the aim of preparing one paper which will be submitted to the concerned authorities to take appropriate decisions.

The source added that these committees were formed soon after the meeting of HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah held last month with economic activists in the private and joint venture sectors with the aim of discussing the economic situations in the country and recommending solutions.

The full report of the committee involved in the industrial sector centred on three main issues: the management of industrial development related to staff and their qualifications. This issue took up a major part of the discussion as it relates to industrialists and officials in charge of industry. It also broached the issue of reviving a proposal to establish a new industrial authority like the Shuaiba Industrial area.

Rights

The next was legislations and laws governing industrial activity. Some of these legislations and laws are not implemented and others do not suit developments and require amendments.

The third tackled the economic agreement of the GCC states related to the level of its implementation—in the context that it is unfair that the industrial sector is one of the states bears the burden of its implementation.

The committee proposed the establishment of a strong body with wide powers and a great deal of flexibility to be responsible for planning, studying and evaluating the industrial sector besides following up industrial projects within the framework of a general plan.

The body should also be responsible for drawing necessary plans to market local industrial products. The committee also called for working out a future plan for the expected requirements of the government ministries and establishments from local industrial products in order to allow local industrial companies to work out their future plans.

The committee also proposed in its report the creation of a special committee to finance exports and guarantee the rights of exports and for the establish-

ment of a national company to export and market all national products.

The committee proposed that the Ministry of Commerce and Industry establish a department to subsidise exports and also form a committee to encourage Kuwaitis to join the industrial sector.

The industrial sector committee's report stressed that the most essential problems facing industry in Kuwait is the absence of a clear imagination (plan) of its role and priorities in effective economic development.

The committee added that the modification of the industry law issued in 1965 and the issue of a new law for industry suitable to the modern developments, is an important step towards enabling the local industry achieve its goals and helping it solve many of the problems and obstacles facing it.

It will further provide the necessary basis to organise the industry sector, improve its performance and support the small, medium and large industrial projects.

Scope

The committee called for working out a plan and a programme for industry within the country's comprehensive development plan. The required plan should specify the scope and opportunities of industrial projects, including those that the private sector can carry out alone and others that need the cooperation of the government.

The report said that the main reason for the absence of an industrial strategy in the country, is the absence of an effective and specialised government department for industry. Responsibility over industry at present is distributed among several government agencies, which are among themselves suffering overlapping in duties.

They have no proper co-ordination and more importantly all of them suffer from lack of qualified staff. The report emphasised that a strong department to be the sole authority to oversee industry must be set up. The new agency must be entrusted with the necessary powers to plan for the future of the industry sector.

The committee said that the national industry faces big obstacles in marketing their products, thus preventing it from utilising its maximum production capacities, improving its performance and reducing the production cost, which ultimately reduced its chances of competing with other products. The committee called for strong co-operation and co-ordination between the industrial firms and the government ministries and establishments as the continuity of industrial companies in the country mainly depends upon using its products by the government.

It further suggested that the government work out a future plan for the requirements of the government ministries and establishments from local industrial products in order to allow local industrial companies to work out their future plans.

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Naqeeb confirms decision on school nurses

DR NAEEL AL NAQEEB, public health undersecretary has ruled out the possibility of reversing the decision to withdraw nurses from secondary schools. However, the official left open the probability of withdrawing nurses from intermediate schools.

Speaking to an Arabic daily yesterday, Naqeeb said that the ministry does not intend to appoint nurses at all schools.

Meanwhile, Naqeeb told the internal magazine of Kuwait Cancer Control Cen-

tre "Al Muntada" that 95 per cent of cancer cases are treated in Kuwait. The remainder need treatment abroad such as operations related to transplanting bone marrow. These operations which were previously being performed in Kuwait, were discontinued due to their high costs. Nevertheless, the ministry is having second thoughts of undertaking 100 per cent of cancer operations in Kuwait, the official said.

He added that chemical treatment of cancer in Kuwait is being developed con-

tinuously and a separate building for chemical treatment of cancer is intended to be established.

Even though a comprehensive survey to discover cancer cases in Kuwait, is quite expensive, serious consideration for undertaking such a study is underway.

The official disclosed that a Kuwaiti citizen Yacoub Behbehani had contributed to build a centre for cancer chemical treatment. He also said that the transplant of organs in Kuwait can be

developed provided the number of donors increase. This development could provide the transplants of liver and kidney. Naqeeb added.

Recovery from cancer greatly depends on early diagnosis and treatment. Naqeeb said and added that the information unit at the cancer control centre have begun distributing publications which assist women in medically self-examining their breasts for any indications of cancer, the official added.

Regular checks

Students have good atmosphere

THE ministry has terminated the services of four teachers for giving private lessons to students after school hours, which is considered an illegal practice under the current ministry code, an official said.

Sulaiman Thamer Al Koh, director of Jahra Education Area told a local paper that the committee formed for preparing facilities for secondary education exams, are ensuring that the exam halls are adequately lit and air-conditioned.

He added that he would make a pre-scheduled number of inspection visits to exams halls on regular daily basis to ensure that everything progressed well and that students were provided with the right ambience to perform well.

He also said that the ministry is planning to strictly enforce its punitive measures against cheater, preventive measures have been taken to prevent any attempts at cheating, the official added.

He ruled out the possibility of exam questions becoming known to students prior to the exams, stressing that the questions were prepared in utter secrecy.

He lauded the level of efficiency of existing teachers in the area, but criticised the lack of interest shown by some parents to follow up the progress of their children at school.

He said that special arrangements had been taken to provide girls students with transport to the exam centres. Special security forces had been deployed around the exam centre to keep everything under control, Koh added.

The Minister of Education Anwar Abdullah Al Nouri has said that the ministry is planning to press ahead with the introduction of computer science in its curricular programmes.

Speaking at the prize-giving ceremony of the first computer contest for the current academic year, organised by the ministry at the Training Centre in Jabriya, the official said that computers played a distinguished role in the field of communications and information. There is hardly any discipline that computer technology has not yet invaded, the official added.

Appreciating the important role of computers in modern science and to familiarise youngsters with computers, the ministry is planning to introduce the subject in existing curricular programmes, Nouri said.

Head of the Education Ministry's Department of School Activities, Khaled Al Harban said yesterday thanks to the personal care of HH the Amir given to the various activities of the youth sectors, the future of Kuwaiti youth looks bright.

In an interview with KUNA Tuesday, Harban said that the ministry takes wide interest in investing youth skills, particularly by opening summer clubs for students, who will find a place to spend their leisure time.

He noted that 43 summer clubs will be opened nation-wide.

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A scene from an examination centre.

Exams are a serious matter

High school examinations begin

KUWAIT, May 23, (KUNA): Minister of Education Anwar Al Nouri Tuesday visited high school examination committees that started work today.

Nouri was quoted as saying in a press statement after concluding his tour: "I hope that students will achieve good results."

The education top official added that the examinations constitute a serious turning point in the lives of the students.

He added that the examinations had been designed to test the students' capabilities in dealing with the curriculum and those who set up the examinations questions were not governed by any specific criteria to make such examinations easy or difficult, clarifying that the description of the examination as easy or difficult one was depending mainly on the student's capability towards the comprehension of the prescribed curriculums.

Meanwhile, Nouri said that the ministry and the examinations committees were working

seriously towards the provision of the appropriate atmosphere for the students at all the examination centres, noting that such centres had been provided with officials to reply to any enquiries which may arise by the students during the examination.

Replying to a question over the examination marking period, the minister said that the ministry intends to give the marking committees a longer period this year for the process in order to avert any mistakes, adding that the results will be announced within four or five days after the examinations have ended. Replying to a question over the grading, the minister said all those who get more than 90 per cent could be considered as outstanding students and deserve honours.

On his tour, the minister was accompanied by the Education Undersecretary Abdurahman Al Khodari and the Assistant Undersecretary for Information and Students Affairs at the Ministry Abdulmohsen Al Saeed.

Islamic charity meeting

THE director of information and public relations department of the International Islamic Charity Authority Dr Adel Al Falah has said that the board will hold its 7th session in Kuwait on June 5.

The board will follow up decisions and recommendation of the previous meeting. It will also discuss efforts and results of campaigns made in Kuwait and Qatar as well as other Islamic countries to collect donations.

The board will review a memorandum about the achievements of the research department of the authority and review the department's held study on the situation of some

Islamic societies to solve and treat their problems.

Falah pointed out that the board will review a comprehensive report on the internal magazine of the authority (Khairiya) and ways to support it to achieve the informational aims of the authority.

The board will also discuss a memorandum on the efforts of a committee set up to reconsider the five-year-plan of the authority. The board will then approve candidates for the list of honour of the authority. The meeting will discuss the different activities and charity projects carried out by the authority in different countries of the Islamic world, Falah added.



A view of the seminar.

Child nurturing seminar opens

KUWAIT, May 23, (KUNA): A two-day symposium on ways of nurturing the child before the primary school stage opened here today, at the Kuwait Plaza Hotel.

The symposium, organised by the Kuwait University's Centre for Community Service and Continuous Education, is held under patronage of HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister's wife, Sheikha Latifa Al Fahd.

Participants include representatives of all state

institutions concerned with child care and education, including the Kuwait Society for Advancement of Childhood.

Research papers tackling problems related to environment of the child, methods of bringing him up, with particular emphasis on foreign governesses in Kuwait, will be discussed.

Organisers hoped the symposium would give parents a better idea about childhood problems and means to encounter them.

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ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

ONE doesn't recognise in one's life the really important moments — until it is too late — Agatha Christie, English writer (1891-1975).

Friction in the socialist camp

By William Echikson

THE Powszechny theater's programme was provocative — two one-act plays by Czechoslovak playwright Vaclav Havel.

Founder of the Charter '77 human-rights group, Mr. Havel is now in prison in Prague serving a nine-month sentence on political charges. This provocation against an East bloc ally becomes complete when Polish Prime Minister Mieczyslaw Rakowski attended opening night.

"When the socialist camp was the socialist camp, such a protest was unimaginable," says Andrzej Drzewicz, a professor of Soviet affairs in Krakow. "We no longer are all tied together."

The loosening of Soviet control over Eastern Europe has uncovered old frictions. Hungary and Romania are back to fighting over treatment of Transylvania's large ethnic Hungarian minority. Bulgaria persecutes its Turkish minority. The Czechoslovaks and East Germans criticize the Poles and Hungarians respond with barbs against their neighbour's human-rights records.

"If the Soviets weren't there to stabilize the situation," notes Charles Gati, an East European specialist at the Columbia School of International Affairs, "all these countries would be fighting each other."

Now Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev says that the former satellites are free to do as they please. Although no one knows just how far Moscow would permit its allies to go, the East Europeans are stretching the limits. They no longer even pay lip service to "proletarian internationalism," the theory behind East Europe's former common face.

"All these disputes are emerging because of Gorbachev," says Jan Jozef Lipki, a key adviser to the recently relegalized Solidarity trade union. "Moscow no longer uses such a strong hand."

Two major opposing blocs are taking shape within Eastern Europe. On one side stand the reformers in Hungary and Poland, promoting glasnost (openness) and perestroika (restructuring). On the other side stand what Professor Gati calls "the Gang of Four": the hard-liners — East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, and Romania.

The two camps disagree on basic political and economic matters. Top-level Poles and Hungarians don't hesitate any longer to say they are moving toward Western-style democracy and to criticize their neighbours, who continue totalitarian abuses.

In a dramatic move at the March session of the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva, Hungary voted to condemn Romanian mistreatment of minorities.

Poles and Hungarians also say openly that the socialist trade organization Comecon is useless, because they want market reforms while other members stick with state control. Both reformers have already joined the Western-dominated International Monetary Fund and the World Bank — and are flirting with the idea of applying to the European Trade Association whose members include Sweden, Austria, and Switzerland.

"Now that it's possible to criticize, it's only normal that our different interests make us speak up against Czechoslovakia and East Germany," argues Jacek Czaputowicz, leader of Poland's Freedom and Peace Movement.

War is unthinkable among the old enemies in Western Europe because rival nationalisms were reconciled by basically voluntary accommodation. Moscow's domination has worked against a similar process in the East.

We East Europeans "believe that the Soviets are responsible for all our tragedies," remarks Krzysztof Kiersten, an independent Polish historian. "Until we overcome this extremely strong feeling of being victims in our minds, it will be difficult to have 'normal' relations with other countries."

While supporting reform at home, Gorbachev's position toward quarreling East Europeans remains ambiguous. Soviet officials say their No. 1 goal in Eastern Europe is peace and stability. An explosion there could torpedo his own domestic reforms. This goal has long meant refusing to either insist on leadership changes or push for reform from his recalcitrant allies, backward-looking septuagenarians still rule the "Gang of Four".

"Gorbachev needs some time," says Petr Uhl, a leading Czechoslovak dissident. "He isn't ready to force changes here which could prove destabilizing."

Sigmas

Small signs are emerging that Gorbachev's hands-off policy is changing. Soviet officials calculate that they need reform-minded allies, first to prevent mounting discontent among Eastern Europeans themselves, and second to reinforce their own reforms. Significantly, talk of leadership changes can be heard these days in both East Berlin and Prague.

Gorbachev meanwhile has embraced the leaders of his two most reform-minded allies, Poland's Wojciech Jaruzelski and Hungary's Karoly Grosz. He visited Poland for five days last summer, and praised General Jaruzelski.

Speaking to the Hungarian Grez, the Soviet leader disapproved the 1956 Soviet invasion and declared his wish to remove all Soviet forces from Hungary. Prime Minister Grosz subsequently reshuffled some hard-liners out of the ruling Politburo, thus strengthening the position of reformers.

Poles say recent signs from Moscow encouraged their own government to criticize the Czechoslovak leadership over its handling of the playwright Havel.

"The Czechs and East Germans are easy targets. They're isolated from Moscow," says Solidarity advisor Lipki. "We can (verbally) attack them because it helps Gorbachev attack his own conservatives at home."

So far, the hard-liners aren't giving in to the pressure. Czechoslovakia officially protested Prime Minister Rakowski's attendance at the Havel opening. In both Czechoslovakia and East Germany, officials point to economic difficulties in the Soviet Union, Poland, and Hungary, and say that perestroika only leads to disaster.

1969, The Christian Science Monitor.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1612 — Sweden's King Gustavus II loses Elfsborg and Guleberg to the Danes
- 1689 — Holy Roman Emperor Leopold I signs treaties of alliance with Holland and Bavaria.
- 1890 — Italy reorganises her Red Sea territories as colony of Eritrea.
- 1906 — Britain annexes Orange Free State in Africa.
- 1941 — German battleship Bismarck sinks British battle cruiser Hood in North Atlantic in World War II and more than 1,300 lives are lost.
- 1963 — London conference of Barbados, Windward and Leeward Islands ends with proposals of "little eight" to form New West Indies Federation.
- 1964 — Riot erupts at football match in Lima, Peru, and 300 spectators lose their lives.
- 1972 — United States and Soviet Union agree to project to put US and Soviet spacemen in orbit together by 1975.
- 1975 — US President Gerald Ford approves two bills providing more than \$400 million to aid resettlement of refugees from South Vietnam and Cambodia.
- 1977 — Soviet President Nikolai Podgorny is dropped from ruling Politburo without explanation.
- 1981 — Ecuador's President Jaime Roldos Aguilera is killed in plane crash in Andes Mountains near Peru border.
- 1984 — Israel and the United States reject a United Nations proposal for an international peace conference on the Middle East.
- 1988 — Tamil rebels kill eight Indian soldiers in two separate incidents in northern Sri Lanka.

'All great reformers run out of steam'

Gorbachev gained points ... and some lessons in China

By Robert Evans

AS Mikhail Gorbachev's blue and white Aeroflot jet headed for Moscow into storm-laden skies over Shanghai last Thursday, the handful of Chinese officials at the airport to see him off grinned in evident relief.

Just an hour earlier an elderly bank clerk, breaking away from a huge anti-government protest on the port city's Nanking Road, in one pithy phrase summed up the Soviet leader's visit billed in advance by both countries as historic.

"He chose a very bad time to come," the man said as cadets from the local Customs Officer's College and journalists from main local newspapers paraded past with huge banners demanding freedom and democracy for China.

Patience

But through four days that would have tested the patience of a lesser leader, Gorbachev kept his eye on the main goal and with a display of political acumen and good humour, emerged unscathed and with some unexpected points won.

Coinciding with the greatest upsurge of popular displeasure against Chinese rulers since the communist takeover in 1949, the "great reconciliation" between Moscow and Beijing of the past week was almost unnoticed.

Gorbachev, who over his four years at the Kremlin helm, has captured headlines world-wide with his dramatic domestic political reforms and foreign policy initiatives, found himself off centre stage in Beijing by China's rebellious students.

"Well, the visit was only symbolic anyway," said a senior Soviet official philosophically. "Everything was done here was prepared in advance and all Gorbachev was doing was putting the seal on it."

Nevertheless, the formal handshake between the Kremlin chief and China's senior leader Deng Xiaoping in the imposing setting of the Great Hall of the People on would clearly have impressed the world more forcefully at any other juncture.

One Soviet diplomat said Moscow had foreseen



Mikhail Gorbachev and wife Raisa with Chinese leader, Deng Xiaoping, in Beijing during the Russian leader's recent visit to China.

possible embarrassment for the Chinese authorities in the week before the visit, the first Sino-Soviet summit in these decades of bitter squabbling, and had offered to postpone it.

"They said no. They were the hosts and there was no reason for us not to respect their wishes," he added. "In the end, it didn't turn out too badly, for us at any rate."

Range

Initially, the students and their supporters from across the whole range of Chinese society proclaimed Gorbachev and his "perestroika" programme that is changing the face of the Soviet

spokesman Gennady Gerasimov he suggested the students had something in common with "hot-heads" at home who wanted his reforms to go faster.

Almost unnoticed, he obtained Chinese agreement to one of the points Beijing officials had adamantly argued before the visit would not be conceded — the effective renewal of links between the two communist parties.

Sealed

This was sealed not only in the meeting with the 84-year-old Deng, whose departure from all positions of power the "democracy movement" has been seeking, but also in talks with Communist Party General Secretary Zhao Ziyang.

On the state and government level, where China had accepted that normalization would be sealed at the summit, he also established good personal contact with Prime Minister Li Peng and President Yang Shangkun.

The four represent the spectrum from reformist to conservative views in the top Beijing leadership. "Whoever emerges on top from the political struggle that's under way here, Gorbachev will know him now," a Soviet official said.

All four meetings Gorbachev told a news conference, had been marked with such friendly discussion even of issues on which the two countries still differed "that I felt the past 30 years had never happened."

The Soviet leader refused to express a public view on the protests that disrupted his visit, declaring he respected the Chinese people and would not presume to act as judge over their actions.

"But there must be one lesson that he will have taken back to Moscow from what happened here this week, and particularly as far as Deng Xiaoping is concerned," said a Communist affairs analyst in Beijing.

"And that is that all great reformers, as Deng was in his time, run out of steam and really should remember — don't hold on to power when your tide has ebbed and retire in time."

(Reuter — Beijing).

Little to celebrate about in war-torn Sudan

By Francis Mdlongwa

A DOZEN naked children danced in the moonlight to the compulsive rhythm of drums, chanting: "This is our land... we will not leave our land."

But there was little to celebrate in Kongor, a rebel-held town of 50,000 people in southern Sudan, which according to one resident, is sliding back into the stone age, leaving its inhabitants at the "mercy of nature."

The children's midnight party this week was to mark the sixth anniversary of a rebellion by guerrillas of Colonel John Garang's Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

The SPLA has held Kongor, where Garang was born, since the war started on May 16, 1983.

The rebels have recently scored a string of military victories in their fight to end what they regard as the domination of mainly Christian and animist southern Sudan by the Arab and Muslim north.

The SPLA has captured more than a dozen towns since February and now the whole of southern Sudan east of the White Nile and south of the River Sobat is in rebel hands.

Some 250,000 people live in Kongor and the surrounding district, 250 km (150 miles) north of the southern capital Juba, but their lives have been devastated by the fighting.

Kongor's 17 schools and six health clinics have been closed since 1983 and its cattle, sheep, cattle dips and boreholes have been abandoned.

To make matters worse, a third of the district's estimated 1.7 million cattle drowned in floods last year and most of its crops were washed out.

"We will have to live like our forefathers did centuries back. Things are just getting worse all the time," Gabriel Deng, one of the residents, told visiting journalists.

Several townspersons brushing their teeth with sticks crowded round to listen

and nearby old men huddled together smoking leaves from a wild tree.

Children played in the dirt, their bodies smeared with ash to protect them from mosquitoes in this malaria-infested town.

Atmen Yaak, the local representative of the SPLA's Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Association, said: "We simply leave the ill people to the mercy of nature. In the case of serious diseases such as malaria, our people use herbs."

Thanks to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Kongor will this year probably be spared the famine that last year killed an estimated 250,000 people in Southern Sudan.

The United Nations, which together with the ICRC and other aid agencies is rushing food to the hungry in southern Sudan, says 100,000 more people could starve to death this year unless help reaches them in time.

Since March, the ICRC has flown 600 tonnes of maize into Kongor from Kenya

and Uganda and has embarked on a campaign to inoculate children against killer diseases.

It has also launched a drive to vaccinate the cattle herds of Kongor's Dinka tribesmen against rinderpest — milk and beef provide the traditional mainstay of their diet.

"Some of the people here have no food at all, but the situation is not that critical (compared to other towns in southern Sudan). Some children are malnourished but this could also be a result of disease," said Claudia Azzolini, the ICRC's chief delegate in Kongor.

This correspondent saw only a handful of malnourished children during a tour of villages around Kongor — their pot bellies bulging from kwashiorkor, a condition caused by lack of protein in their diet.

The ICRC hopes to move another 1,000 tonnes of food into Kongor over the next three months, despite the heavy rains that threaten to close its muddy airstrip.

"We will just have to try our best to fly in the food. We can't leave a country at war," Azzolini said.

The ICRC is also distributing maize and vegetable seeds and hoes.

But 28-year-old Deng, who works as a food warehouse manager for the ICRC, said: "The food is not enough and the people cannot cultivate while they are hungry."

Besides Kongor, the Geneva-based ICRC is supplying food aid to other towns in both rebel and government-held areas of southern Sudan.

Wounded

The ICRC also flies wounded SPLA fighters and civilians needing surgery to its hospital in Lokichokio, in northwestern Kenya, set up especially to help victims of the Sudanese civil war.

The ICRC's food aid effort, launched last December, has cost \$27 million so far, and it has budgeted a similar amount for its operations to the end of July.

Near-total dependence on Soviet roubles

Cuba needs American dollars

By J.D. Gannon

CUBA has a serious problem: It needs American dollars to repay its debt and buy imports. But its main export — sugar — goes to the Soviets who pay in unconverible roubles.

Cuba is in its fourth year of austerity and economic decline, and one reason is Havana's inability to find Western sources of credit. Such credit is drying up because the government of President Fidel Castro has been unable to obtain the dollars to service its \$6.4 billion foreign debt.

For this reason, Cuba has had to slash imported goods — for which it must pay in hard currency — from \$1.2 billion a year in 1984-85 to \$900 million in 1987.

What this means for the average Cuban is that all non-Soviet manufactured goods — from buses to entire industrial plants — go unserviced much of the time and must run with fewer spare parts. It also means that the widespread Cuban desire for more Western consumer goods has had to remain on hold.

Sugar is king in Cuba, but the world sugar market has been in decline for almost 10 years. The Soviet Union buys more than half of all Cuba's sugar exports at about 40 cents a pound.

The average world price has been 11-12 cents a pound this year, up from about eight cents a

pound last year. Eastern bloc countries are the second largest buyers of Cuban sugar, also at inflated prices and also paid for in currencies worthless outside the Soviet bloc.

Dependence

However, in those cases where some payments are made in goods rather than cash, Cuba benefits. For instance, Moscow often pays for Cuban sugar with Soviet oil. What Cuba doesn't use domestically, it re-exports to Western countries for hard cash.

Oil sales accounted for 40 per cent of all of Cuba's hard currency earned in 1988. Together, oil and sugar account for 50 per cent of all hard currency earnings.

As a result, Cuba's pre-revolution dependence on the United States has become a near total dependence on the Soviet Union. Of the 5.4 billion pesos in exports in 1987 — 77 per cent of which was earned through the sale of sugar — 3.8 billion worth went to the Soviet Union.

Oil imports totalling 7.61 billion pesos in 1987, 5.49 billion worth came from the Soviet Union. (The official exchange rate is one peso to one dollar; but on the black market, the dollar fetches between five and seven pesos.)

The Christian Science Monitor.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SPECIAL REPORT

Million demand Li's resignation

(Continued from Page 1)

It said Communist Party chief Zhao Ziyang, whose position was jeopardised when he advocated compromise with the students and opposed Li's hardline stance, would resume his duties.

The report could not be immediately confirmed, but some Western news agencies also reported that Zhao had apparently returned to work after what was reported as a "vacation."

One indication that Li might be in trouble was the first official acknowledgement that the premier was the primary object of demonstrators' anger.

The official Xinhua news agency said one million people took to the streets and "the overwhelming majority of the slogans of the parade were directed against the chief leader of the state council," who is Li.

It reported other slogans said, "withdraw the troops and lift martial law," and "safeguard the constitution and guarantee human rights."

Leading intellectuals from China's most famous think-tank, the Chinese Academy of Sciences, led the protest. They accused Li of staging a military coup in his struggle against Zhao.

Tens of thousands of people also marched through the streets of Shanghai today to demand that Li step down. Marches in the Portuguese colony of Macao and in Hong Kong, a British colony, also were held to support the Beijing protests. Both colonies are scheduled to revert to Chinese rule by the end of the century.

This evening, workers used a large crane to replace a portrait of revolutionary leader Mao Tse-tung on the gate of the Forbidden City across the Tiananmen Square.

Earlier today, two young men had splattered paint on the gigantic portrait of the founder of communist China. Red and black dots marred Mao's chin and smeared between his eyes. Later, workers covered the painting with a green tarpaulin.

Like the previous three nights under martial law, a constant stream of supporters walked, bicycled and motorcycled around the square. The numbers, however, appeared smaller than previous nights when people thronged to the square to protest the students from whom they thought was imminent attack from military troops.

Most of the troops that had moved onto city outskirts Friday night have withdrawn to points further away from the city. Residents removed many of the barricades they had set up to block a troop advance into the city.

Also today, the government lifted a ban on satellite transmission of television news reports of the protests. The ban had been part of the martial law order, which has rendered virtually ineffective by the huge crowds in the square and streets.

The students decided earlier today to continue their occupation of the square even though thousands of demonstrators had returned to their schools.

"I voted that we should go back because many of the Beijing students are already leaving," said Guo Haifeng, a student leader from Beijing University. "But the student union insists on struggling until the end. They want to see the government fall."

Chinese leaders embroiled in a bitter power struggle huddled in secret today to debate withdraw-

ing troops from around Beijing to end a four-day standoff with pro-democracy demonstrators, Chinese sources said.

The meeting was held at an undisclosed site.

Public signs conflicted as Chinese leaders met at an enlarged meeting of the Communist Party's ruling politburo, convened to determine their course, the sources said.

But Deng and Li Peng, backed by party conservatives, appeared to be losing ground against moderates supporting Zhao Ziyang and an avalanche of popular opposition to the decision to call out the Army in Beijing.

None of the leaders has been seen in public since Saturday, when Li declared martial law in Beijing after days of mass pro-democracy demonstrations swept the entire nation, the greatest defiance of the government since its founding in 1949.

The official Xinhua news agency, which since Saturday had toed the government line, issued an unusually frank report on the afternoon protest and said "the overwhelming majority of the slogans were directed against the chief leader of the state council."

It was the first time in memory Xinhua had reported that slogans were directed against a specific leader.

In Washington, Wan Li, chairman of the National People's Congress, the nominal Parliament, and a politburo member, announced he cut short a US trip and returned home.

Among its functions, the effectively rubber-stamp Congress ratifies decisions on changes in ranking government officials.

With the citizens' barricades drawing hundreds of thousands of people onto the streets each night to await an Army advance, already sparking clashes with the soldiers, Deng was under pressure to have them pull back, Chinese sources said, quoting party officials.

State-run television, on its evening news, interviewed a People's Liberation Army major in one of the stalled convoys around the city who indicated the troops were told to ease the tension.

Tolerant
"Being magnanimous, many recent days I have taken out orders; but we're not going to shoot the people," the unidentified major said.

"We have taken a tolerant attitude. We withdrew a little today."

At a news conference tonight, local officials said 83 people were injured and 10 people arrested in clashes in the Fengtai district of southwest Beijing when soldiers used truncheons to beat back protesters trying to block an Army convoy from moving.

Ye Shanshi, a district government deputy chief, said 60 of the injured were soldiers, four hurt seriously. Eleven were students.

Reporters were shown a military compound where demonstrators had broken windows and destroyed a room. But Ye was conciliatory, saying people other than the students started the trouble.

Beijing television also reported one Army officer was killed in an unrelated traffic accident.

Reports of simmering unrest and large troop movements in China's provinces reached Beijing today.

China's rebelling students at first asked only to talk to the government as equals. Now they want the government to fall.

Chinese leaders embroiled in a bitter power struggle huddled in secret today to debate withdraw-



Student protesters block the path of a person (centre facing) who they say defaced the huge portrait of the late Chairman Mao yesterday. Three people were apprehended. (Reuter wirephoto)



A student sleeps with a mask next to his comrades in Tiananmen Square. Tens of thousands of protesters continue to occupy the square. (Reuter wirephoto)



The huge portrait of the late Chairman Mao was defaced with paint yesterday. The world famous portrait hangs over Tiananmen Square and is one of Chinese communism's most sacred icons. (Reuter wirephoto)

Power struggle in China

Skeletons

BEIJING, May 23, (UPI): The power struggle being fought by Chinese leaders has exposed a lie put forth for more than a decade by some of the world's most powerful men that after years of agony, they had learned how to live with each other.

Between April 15, when former Chinese Communist Party leader Hu Yaobang died, and May 19, when Premier Li Peng called out the Army to put down pro-democracy protests, China's leadership was threatened by little more than peaceful public criticism.

Yet paralysis in the leadership, lacking either the sensitivity to deal with the people's discontent or the iron will to stamp it out, now has drawn out underlying disputes over the nation's direction in a battle that makes the street protests a public sideshow.

Since the end of the Cultural Revolution in 1976 and China's opening to the world a few years later, party leaders have vowed that the factional struggles that closed the country and brought it to the brink of economic ruin would never be repeated.

They took the pledge to swear off the Mao Tse-Tung days, when political defeat could mean jail or a bullet in the head. Many foreigners bought it. Chinese always have known better.

"They always use these incidents for power struggles, to get rid of someone or settle old accounts," said a dissident who had predicted the recent protests would spark such a battle. But he acknowledged the struggle's intensity surprised him.

Analysts agree that most Chinese leaders are to some degree committed to the free-enterprise economic reforms launched by Deng Xiaoping in the late 1970s. The changes, coupled with increasing foreign contact, have improved the lives of most Chinese.

But the leaders have differed sharply on the pace and scope of the reforms. Li favours stability over the economy's often break-neck speed of growth and diversity, while Communist Party general secretary Zhao Ziyang advocates bolder reforms.

They also are split over political reforms intended to open China's hidebound system of decision-making so it would be less subject to the whim of whoever holds power.

But power remains the name of the game.

In the past two years, unwelcome results of the economic liberalisations — record inflation, widening income gaps and rampant official corruption — have fuelled public discontent at the same time political reforms have bogged down.

With no means to redress grievances and without a free press, Chinese found a spark in the student democracy protests, ultimately lighting a fuse under what Chinese leaders have long been terrified of — widespread social unrest.

That has provided an opportunity for a realignment of what had appeared to be a stable coalition.



Student protesters continue to keep watch at the entrance to Zhongnanhai, the Communist Party headquarters compound. Prime Minister Li's inability to enforce martial law has loosened his hold on power. (Reuter wirephoto)



A new portrait of Mao is raised by a crane as thousands watch in front of the Gate of Heavenly Peace last night. The old portrait (upper right) remained draped. (Reuter wirephoto)



A Chinese worker asks a policeman standing guard outside Shanghai government office to join a pro-democracy demonstration yesterday. (Reuter wirephoto)



Chinese Army troops smile as their truck turns around and leaves a south-west suburb yesterday. These troops were part of a convoy which has been stalled for the past two days by a human barricade. They returned to their base south of the city. (Reuter wirephoto)

South Korea

SEOUL, May 23, (AP): About 200 people were arrested after the government deployed some 10,000 riot police today to block protests by radical students calling for the expulsion of US troops from South Korea.

Thousands of riot troopers in green combat fatigues blanketed the centre of Seoul, standing guard along main streets and ringing the US embassy and key government buildings.

Students who tried to show up for a rally at city hall were seized and there were no reports of any clashes.

Police headquarters said about 200 radicals had been arrested.

Troopers conducted spot checks on many streets, questioning and searching people and taking away suspects. Police patrols roamed subway stations in the city centre to stop students from gathering.

Radical students staged peaceful campus protests earlier today at 16 colleges in Seoul on the second day of a week of anti-US protests. Students marched or held rallies, but there were no reports of fighting.

Students at Sungkyunkwan University tried to push through lines of riot police, but were held back. Students from the school

staged a protest march dressed as skeletons and microbes to symbolise US nuclear and chemical weapons.

"Drive out the Yankees" and "Down with the dictatorship," protesters chanted.

The Foreign Ministry issued a strong statement today criticising radical students for burning US flags at anti-US campus protests yesterday. Ministry spokesman Chang Hoan said such acts must stop.

"Defacing a nation's flag is a deplorable act," he said.

Student groups called for a week of protests in Seoul and other cities to demand the withdrawal of the 43,000 US troops based in South Korea under a mutual defence treaty. Radical leaders claim the United States helps prop up authoritarian rule.

Other demands include an end to US trade pressure to open South Korean markets to US imports. The radicals also want the United States to apologise for the bloody suppression of a 1980 uprising in the southern city of Kwangju.

South Korean troops put down the uprising in Kwangju, in which at least 192 people died, but radical groups claim the United States masterminded the operation.

VIDEO CORNER

Destructive attraction

By Shaun Seekins

IT'S easy to be wise after the event, but the very literary translation of Choderlos de Laclos' classic novel *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* with Glenn Close and John Malkovich in the plum roles of scheming ex-lovers — the Marquise de Merteuil and the Vicomte de Valmont — might have proved substantially less commercial without the invaluable help of seven Hollywood Oscar nominations. Directed by Stephen Frears and with the screenplay adapted by Christopher Hampton from the highly successful stage play, apart from the London and New York productions, about 40 others are being staged world-wide.

Dangerous Liaisons would have us believe that the powdered and bewigged aristocracy of France were capable of using their seductive powers as a tool of destruction and competition, at least, that is the case with the two leading characters. Merteuil's current lover has left her to marry Cecile de Volanges (Uma Thurman), so she implores Valmont to seduce the girl and spoil her for her future husband. But Valmont already has other sport in mind. For no other reason than the challenge of it, Valmont has decided to bed Madame de Tourvill (Michelle Pfeiffer), a virtuous and quite married

member of the bourgeoisie. Both the plots become hilariously entangled, but then the unexpected happens: Valmont, the most callous of rogues, falls in love with Tourvel. Feeling betrayed by Valmont, the scheming Merteuil turns her venomous anger towards him with fatal results.

Dangerous Liaisons is an exceptional piece of work. The set detail and costuming are impeccable; Stephen Frears' direction is suitably lush, and the cast — American accents notwithstanding — is superb. Malkovich, particularly, is mesmerising as the cruel Valmont. His laconic manner and narrow, wolfish face are ideal for this character whose every move is dictated by a manipulative mind.

The *Accidental Tourist* is a bittersweet story about a man who has been cut off from the most basic human feelings. William Hurt plays Macon Leary, an upright writer whose inherent fussiness makes him the ideal candidate to become "The Accidental Tourist," the author of a string of travel books for the reluctant businessman who would just as soon stay at home.

As the story opens, Sarah (Kathleen Turner), Macon's wife, announces that she's leaving him. Their 12-year-old son has died a year previously in a senseless shooting and

she feels there is nothing left between them; Macon had reacted to the tragedy by turning inward and shutting everything, including Sarah, out.

How Macon adjusts to this disruption, in what he desires to be a controlled and efficient life comprises most of the film.

Suddenly deprived of his entire family (except the dog), he retreats to the family house and moves in with his two brothers and sister. This trio of middle-aged eccentrics live in a world all of their own, and as we meet them we realise that Macon's character is inbred.

It's not until Macon meets Muriel (Geena Davis), a free-spirited and outgoing dog trainer, that he is forced out of his shell. She pursues him cheerfully and slowly breaks down his defences, only to have Sarah return and claim to want to resume their marriage. Macon must then decide whether to return to his safe but stilted life with Sarah, or continue his offbeat affair with Muriel.

Agatha Christie's *Poirot* continues, a new series of Miami Vice starts and at long last the Basketball NBA Playoffs are arriving. The above films are by courtesy of VFI Pictures/Faraway; Video Nasif, Salimya Complex, Tel: 2432809; and Video Club, Salimya, Tel: 5724572.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

MORNING
9.00 Holy Quran
9.10 Sabah Al Khair
9.15 Faljoona: Cartoon Serial (part 5)
9.45 Magazine D'Actualite
10.00 Yaseen Wa Bahiya: Arabic Serial (part 12)
10.45 News summary and varieties
11.00 Al Aswar: Local Serial (part 12)
12.00 News summary and varieties
12.15 Circus
1.00 News Summary
1.05 Holy Quran and Closedown

EVENING

4.00 Holy Quran
4.15 The World News via Satellite
4.45 Sherlock Holmes: Cartoon Serial
5.15 Ma's Al Talaba: Prepared by the School Activity Department at the Ministry of Education
6.15 Nadam: Arabic Serial (part 6). Starring Abdul Majid Majhoub, Mohammed Ibrahim, Muna Wasef, and Nadiya Hamdi
7.30 Varieties
8.00 Al Iskan Wa El Muwaten: Prepared by the Public Authority for Housing News in Arabic
9.00 News in Arabic

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Kuwait Science Museum
OPEN Saturday to Wednesday, 8-9 pm only. Natural history exhibits from in and around Kuwait, including blue whale. Closed on Thursday and Friday.

Islamic Arts Museum
SAT - Thurs.: 9 am to 12 noon, 7 to 10.00 pm. Collection includes rare Islamic artefacts, Quranic manuscripts, ceramics, carpets and marine equipment. Arabian Gulf St.

Sadu House
SAT - Thurs.: 9 am to 12 noon, 7 to 10 pm. Exhibits include bedouin handicrafts — rugs, saddle bags, cushions and textiles. Closed on Friday.

Bangladesh Art Show
UPTO May 27. Bangladeshi artist Monirul Islam will show 45 paintings at the Kuwait National Museum. Islam's paintings revolve around the life of Bangladeshis. Landscapes are also on show. The exhibition will be open from 8.30 am to 12.30 noon and 4 to 7 pm. It has been organised by the Bangladesh Association.

FILMS

Children's film
May 24 (6 pm); May 25 (10.30 am): Heidi, a BBC production of one of the most popular children's stories, is set amidst the scenery of the Swiss Alps. It is about Heidi, a young-spirited Swiss orphan, who is taken to live with her grandfather in the mountains; unexpectedly, she has to leave her beloved mountains and live with a strange family in the city. This children's film will be shown at the British Council, Mansouriya. Admission is free but it is advisable to reserve seats. Tel: 2515512; 2533204.

MUSIC

Kuwait Singers
MAY 24/25 (8.00 pm):

9.45 Layali Al Hilmiya: Daily Arabic Serial (part 12)
10.45 Wadi Al Ghazlan: Bedouin Serial (part 3), starring Mahmood Saeed, Sabah Jaziri, and Aadeb Qadoora
11.45 News Summary
11.50 The World News Via Satellite
12.15 Holy Quran and Closedown

KTV 2

6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 The Raccoons: cartoon serial
6.30 Mac and Mutley: A programme for young viewers, it takes a look at a dog's parade; how to train dogs and other subjects.
7.00 Danger Bay: Covert Operation. Grant and Jonah, who are working on a research project, suspect they are dealing with undercover agents.
7.30 Body Matters: Breathing Space. Doctors talk about how the lungs function and discuss lung diseases.
8.00 News in English
8.40 You and the Law: Presented by Ali Noor.
8.50 Sonny Spoon: Sam's Private Eye.
9.40 The Cosby Show: Lucy

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
Al Alamiya Pharmacy
Fahd Al Salem St.
Al Rashed Pharmacy
Ahmed Al Jaber St.
Hawalli and Negra
Al Qatami Pharmacy
Nugra, Beirut St.
Salimya and Remithiya
Qurtuba Pharmacy
Salem Al Mubarak St.
Fahsheel and Almadi
Al Badiya Pharmacy
Fahsheel Open-air
Johnny I Love You
Fahsheel
Arabic film
Jahra
Nuts
Granada
Arabic film
Salahibkhat
1921
Al Jieb
Clerk
Ahmed Drive-in
Arabic film

PRAYERS

Fajr	3.19 am
Zuhri	11.45
Asr	3.20 pm
Maghreb	6.38
Isha	8.07

Night; with entertainment by Joanna and her band; magic by Alexander; followed by German food buffet.

MAY 25 (3 pm): Finals of the Nation's Fun cup tennis tournament; followed by German food buffet, KD 3 per person.

MAY 26 (3-6 pm): International Children's Festival; magic, music, games and food; plus painting competition for children aged five and eight years.

All events will be held at the Regency Palace Hotel. For reservations call the Regency Palace, German booking office; German Embassy — 4814055; German School — 5640030; German Library, Holiday Inn Hotel, ext. 6096.

Jukebox 5

MAY 25: The Sounds Great production of Jukebox 5, will be presented at the Salimiyah Cinema at 8 pm and also at 5 pm on May 25. For reservations ring 5740256/7 (mornings and 4 to 7 pm) or 5718143 or 5731782. Tickets will be on sale at Salimiyah Cinema Box Office.

Indian Arts Circle

MAY 25: The IAC will hold a one-hour variety show, followed by a prize-distribution ceremony for the winners of the One-Act Play Competition, recently conducted by them. The names of the winners will be announced on May 25 at the ceremony, which will be followed by dinner. For reservations call 3904817; 2644863; 390379; 290165.

Mando Festival

MAY 26: For the first time in the history of Goans in Kuwait — Kuwait Konkani Kendri (KKK) is going to organise a Konkani Mando Festival at Hotel Meridien starting at 10.30 am. For details please contact 2644983.

Charity Dinner

MAY 29: A fund-raising dinner for refugees in Lebanon will be held for the British charity, MAP, at the Regency Palace Hotel. It has been organised by the Kuwaiti Women's Cultural Society. For reservations contact the hotel.

German Week

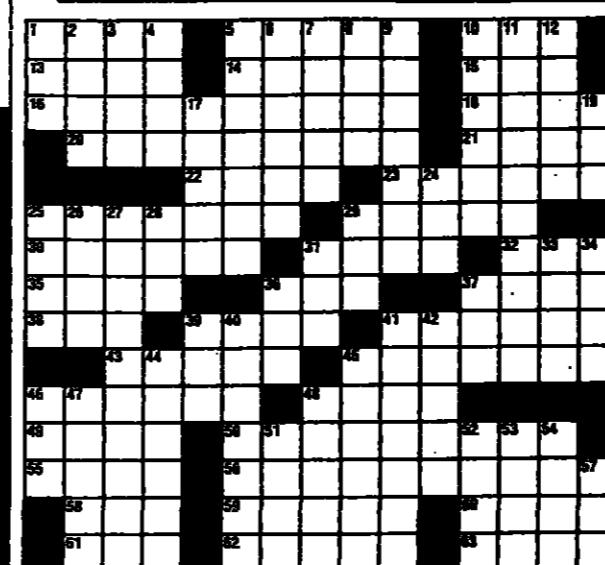
ON the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the Construction Day, the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, will hold week-long festivities:

MAY 24-27: German Productions Exhibition; open from 9.30 am to 1 pm (for traders only). Open to the public from 5 to 9 pm, and 9 to 9 pm on Friday.

MAY 24: Gala German

FEATURES

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



CROSSWORD
 1 Snail's speed
 5 Padres' French kin
 10 Basic start
 13 Emerald Isle
 14 Cut the turkey
 15 Neither fish nor fowl
 16 Business center in New York
 18 Fly in the ointment
 20 Storekeepers
 21 Wood shaper
 22 the line (conformed)
 23 Start of something big?
 25 Kismet
 29 Sound near Olympia, Wash.
 31 City on the Avon
 32 Josh
 35 Standard
 36 Strip
 37 — meeny...
 38 Consume
 39 Predicament
 41 Lifework
 43 Atlanta University
 45 Was influential
 46 Resinous compound
 48 —, a bone,

ACROSS
 1 "Kipling . . ."
 5 Sticks out like a —
 10 "Younger — springtime..."
 15 "Trams" . . . kind of fool?"
 19 Public storehouse
 20 XXVI plus XXVII
 21 Formerly called for one
 22 Nickname for Mrs. Kennedy
 23 Charity
 24 Exploring
 25 Celtic deity
 26 Son of Seth
 27 Main, Elm or Church
 28 Selleck
 29 Actor O'Neal
 31 Unless
 33 Arrow poison
 34 Laundry worker
 35 Cussey
 37 Sea bird
 39 Ham to Noah
 40 Laundry worker
 41 Close-fitting jackets
 42 Zero
 44 Nasty one
 45 Uncanny
 46 Soak in water
 47 An Alien
 48 Tapestry
 51 Premiering
 52 Calif. university
 53 Knight's wear
 54 Brink
 57 Family member, for short

DOWN
 1 So soundlike for one
 3 Heraldic band
 4 Strip on a shoe
 5 Deeds
 6 Cereal grass
 7 "This Happy —": 1944 film
 8 Green or glade starter
 9 Begins
 10 Handled
 11 Fashionable
 12 London thoroughfare
 13 Fed
 17 Glossy fabric
 19 Comprehend
 24 Yuck!

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
LEARNING FROM GYPSY ROSE

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♦ A Q 6 2

♥ J 6 5

♦ A 4

♦ 10 7 4 3

WEST

♦ J 7 3

♥ 10 4 2

♦ K 9 6 2

♦ K 9 6

EAST

♦ 9 8 4

♥ 9 7

♦ Q 10 8 5 3

♦ Q J

SOUTH

♦ 10 5

♥ A K Q 8 3

♦ J 7

♦ A 8 5 2

THE bidding:

South West North East

1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

2 ♦ Pass 4 ♣ Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: Two of ♦

The great ecdysiasts did not have

to "take it all off" to excite their

audiences—a partial strip was

sure to fire the imagination. The

same is often true at the bridge

table.

Arguably, North had enough for

a forcing jump in hearts at his first

turn. However, a jump raise of partner's trump suit always promises

four-card support, so he used a de-

layed game raise instead.

West led a low diamond, and a

curious examination of the North-South assets might lead to the con-

clusion that declarer was going to

have to rely on the spade finesse for

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

REBA	HAHA	BASS
ORAL	MARES	ILLIA
BILLMOYERS	LANK	EEL
FAIR	ORES	OBLIGE
BOSS	TROY	LAINE
MARLY	POTOMAC	POLOMAC
EVEL	ELAND	RARA
DENY	LACE	ATILT
RAJTIME	COINS	RAGTIME
SALAMI	PORT	BURN
AMAH	BILLBAILEY	ARE
HINA	LOOTS	DANE
DEEM	ENDS	ONES

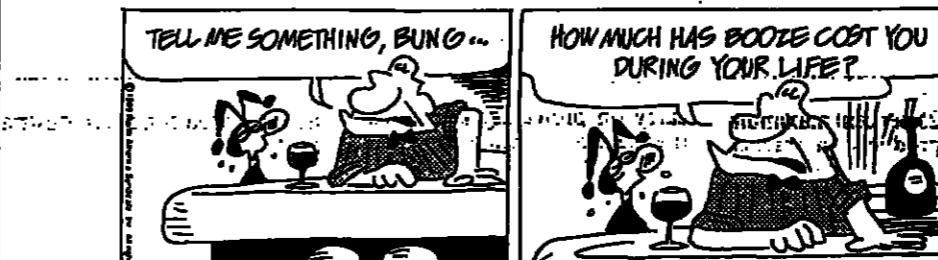
CHECKOUT

"I never had this trouble at the corner shop!"

SITE OF NEW PUBLIC LIBRARY

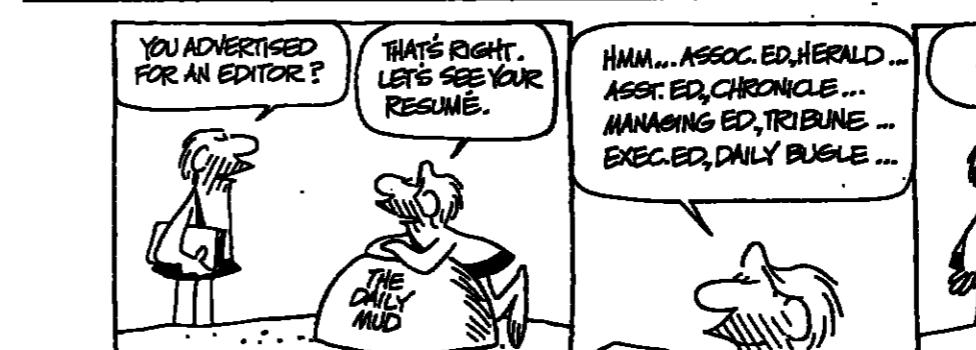
"SHHHH!"

THE WIZARD OF ID



By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart

B.C.



BUSINESS & FINANCE

Japanese team in Iran with new proposals

Plan to discuss petrochemical project

NICOSIA, May 23, (Reuters): An Iranian newspaper has urged Iran to take a Japanese company to the World Court if necessary to press it to complete the petrochemical complex at Bandar Khomeini.

The call in Resalat, reported today by the Iranian news agency IRNA, came as a Japanese delegation arrived in Tehran with new proposals on the Iran-Japan Petrochemical Co. (IJPC) project, damaged by Iraqi air raids.

The Japanese side, a consortium led by Mitsui, says the project on Iran's northern Gulf coast is no longer economical and should be liquidated.

The two sides have invested 600 billion yen (\$4.6 billion) in the 50-50 joint venture since 1971. The complex was 85 per cent complete when the Iran-Iraq war broke out in 1980.

IRNA, monitored in Nicosia, said Hiroshi Watada, president of Iran Chemical

Development Company, a Mitsui-led investment unit for the project, headed the Japanese delegation which arrived in Tehran yesterday.

Watada, who last visited Iran in March, will hold talks with the director of Iran's National Petrochemical Company Ahmad Rahgozar. IRNA gave no details of Watada's proposals.

Mitsui formally asked Iran to abandon the project last December. Tehran said it needed time to decide, but official statements have since insisted on completion.

Resalat said Iran should not pin its hopes for the costly project on "fruitless negotiations".

"If the Japanese insist on their previous stance that the project is not economical, Iran should insist on the implementation of the original protocol and ask Mitsui for (Iran's) right even if the case is taken to the

International Court at the Hague," IRNA quoted the paper as saying.

Meanwhile, Japan's electronics industry voiced strong opposition today to a recent proposal by the European Economic Community commission to nearly triple the tariff on imports of Japanese-made video camera recorders.

The Electronic Industries Association of Japan said in a statement released today that Japanese manufacturers of video camera recorders (Camcorder) "have strongly objected" to the proposal and decided "to vigorously oppose this initiative."

This disguised and substantial increase in the tariff rate for Camcorders proposed by the EEC Commission can only fuel the concern voiced throughout the world about "fortress Europe," the statement said.

The association said the tariff rate on

Japanese Camcorders would be raised to 14 per cent from the current 4.9 per cent if the proposal were to be endorsed by the commission's member states.

The statement argued that "the bad news for the European consumer is that, if the proposal were adopted, the only Camcorders that would continue to be subjected to the lower tariff rate for television cameras would be Camcorders stripped of a convenient technical feature available all over the world."

It also said the proposal is inconsistent with the international convention on the harmonised commodity description and coding system, to which the EEC is a party.

According to government statistics, Japan's exports of consumer electronic equipment to the European Economic Community in 1988 totalled \$88.9 billion yen (\$4.5 billion), up 10.4 per cent over the previous year.



Tokyo foreign exchange dealers receive trading orders as the dollar lost some altitude yesterday on profit-taking after the currency soared to its highest rate against the yen since October 1987 in a day of choppy trade. The dollar closed at 141.95 yen yesterday. (Reuter wirephoto)

US businessmen in the Gulf encouraged by Congress outlook

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia, May 23, (AP): American businessmen returning from a two-week lobbying trip to Washington said today they were encouraged by congressional receptivity to issues affecting US relations with the Arab world.

The 30-member group, which included US businessmen based in Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Oman, held more than 150 meetings with officials in the US Departments of Commerce, State, Defense, and Treasury, said the office of the United States Trade Representative.

They sought to heighten awareness of the importance of US trade with the Gulf Cooperation Council countries.

This totalled \$13.26 billion last year, according to the estimates of the Riyadh-based American Businessmen's Group.

The 1987 total was \$11.4 billion and the 1986 figure was \$10 billion.

"Over the past 10 years, American companies have received upwards of \$80 billion for their exports to the GCC countries, and the exports generated some 2.5 million jobs in America over that period," said ABGR chairman Richard A. Meade.

The GCC groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, the UAE, Oman and Qatar.

Lobbying efforts included a plea to Congress to sell US defence equipment to friendly GCC countries, the need to remove US income tax on American citizens' overseas earnings to "improve American competitiveness," and an urgent request for funding US product standards advisors to work with the Saudi standards and specifications organisation.

ABGR members said that countries which send teams of standards experts to Saudi Arabia, including Britain, France, West Germany and Japan, have a competitive edge over the United States.

They said that the American market share in Saudi Arabia has declined and that goods from companies such as General Electric, Clorox and Westinghouse have been stopped at Saudi customs solely due to standards incompatibility.

Last October, Congress passed legislation agreeing to send federally-approved standards agents to countries importing US goods worth more than \$1 billion with the caveat that private businessmen would have to foot the bill for the first two years.

"We want Congress and members of the executive branch, who are so concerned about America's soaring trade and budget deficits, to realize that the GCC is a major trading partner for America."

John Mulholland, president of the group of American businessmen in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, said that Congress appears more receptive to Arab issues due to "highly publicized developments" such as the Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

World Bank loan for Tunisia

WASHINGTON, May 23, (KUNA): Tunisia's programme to improve access to low-income urban housing and to strengthen key institutions in the sector will be financed by a \$58 million World Bank loan, it was announced here today.

The project, the fifth of its kind in Tunisia to be assisted by the World Bank, will improve housing finance by increasing the private sector's share in housing development, further mobilising domestic savings, and rationalising the use of public resources, according to World Bank officials.

Bid to seek pact on customs tariffs

Gulf Arab ministers meet

RIYADH, May 23, (Agencies): Industry ministers from six Gulf Arab states were to debate today imposing a 25 per cent customs duty to protect national products from foreign goods now imported virtually duty-free, the Gulf News Agency said.

The Bahrain-based agency said possible import restrictions to counter foreign competition would also be discussed at a two-day meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

The economic and political alliance — which imports most of its manufactured goods and foodstuffs — groups Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

Ministers would also seek agreement on customs tariffs and joint industrial projects, officials said.

GCC states agreed three years ago on a four per cent minimum tariff and a 25 per cent maximum on foreign products. In practice, most exports enter Gulf countries duty free or at a very low duties.

Bahrain's Development and Industry Minister Youssef Sharifi said the ministers would review a paper on a 10-year unified industrial development strategy, the agency added.

At a summit in Bahrain last December the GCC delayed plans to introduce the unified customs pact by another year.

The accord, part of a 1981 plan to integrate GCC economies, was originally due to take effect



Faisal Abdul Razaq Al Khalid in 1987, but that deadline was extended to early 1989.

GCC finance ministers allowed Oman last December to carry on protecting key industries such as cement and plastics by taxing competing imports, despite the pact's guarantee of free trade between member states.

The Gulf states abolished tariffs on internal trade in 1983, but have yet to agree on unified tariffs for foreign imports.

The officials said industry ministers will also review progress in negotiations with the European Economic Community (EEC) since the two blocs signed a trade pact last year.

Kuwait's Minister of Commerce and Industry Faisal Abdul

Al Khalid

minister said he had been invited to attend the meeting.

The minister is accompanied by acting assistant under-secretary for finance, administrative and industrial affairs Ali Abdulla Al Bin Ali and other ministry officials.

Teams express satisfaction

EEC foreign ministers give backing to Soviet trade talks

BRUSSELS, Belgium, May 23, (AP): European foreign ministers today prepared the ground-work for negotiations that could lead to greater trade and economic co-operation between the European Economic Community and the Soviet Union.

The ministers, representing the 12 countries of the European Common Market trading bloc, backed plans likely to result in formal talks with the Soviet Union on a trade pact.

Spain's Foreign Minister, Francisco Fernandez Ordonez, said: "We want to cover all subjects of common interest, from nuclear energy to transportation, from fisheries to agricultural products."

He predicted it would be an "extremely broad" agreement but would not include provisions on financial aid to the Kremlin.

A document formally outlining the community's bargaining strategy will be presented to the foreign ministers at a meeting in June, he said.

A spokesman for the European Commission, the country's executive body, had

said earlier that the foreign ministers expressed "general support for the approach which we have taken. It has to be formalised later on." The spokesman spoke on condition of anonymity.

The ministers, he said, "would like to see a broad agreement, which does entail a large potential for trade relations as well as economic co-operation, including nuclear co-operation."

The commission also said negotiations for the Soviet Union and the trading bloc met last week to discuss a possible fishing agreement.

The discussions were conducted in an open and constructive atmosphere," said a statement. "The two delegations expressed satisfaction with the progress accomplished."

The next round of fishing talks, it said, will be held in Moscow. No date was set.

The community and the Soviet Union have been holding a series of meetings, described as exploratory talks, which are designed to get an idea of what each side would like to see in an overall trade agreement.

The European Common Market, excluding Greece, imported nearly \$13 billion worth of goods from the Soviet Union last year and exported products worth about \$10 billion.

The trading bloc has been working out trade agreements with East European countries.

Last June, it signed a declaration establishing official relations with the Soviet-led socialist economic bloc, called the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance. The landmark declaration ended three decades of estrangement between Europe's economic halves.

Moscow's partners in Comecon are East Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Bulgaria and Romania, plus Vietnam, Cuba and Mongolia.

During the initial contacts, community officials have said the Soviets indicated they would be interested in an accord with the richer European countries covering a wide variety of areas, including high technology and know-how.

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The officials pointed out that the Amman purely would be a good opportunity for an in-depth revision of Arab investment policies as well as attraction of Arab funds invested abroad, estimated at nearly \$370 billion.

Though capital owners are convinced that Arab states are the best home for their investment operations," he said materialisation of this fact, is still a distant goal, requiring persistent efforts and work.

He indicated that by the end of 1988, flow of capital investment within the Arab homeland reached some \$9.9 billion.

Recent representative of the UN Development Programme also addressed the session underscoring marked interest in developing investment and co-operation among several Arab state groupings of political and economic proximity.

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Jedha iK

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

International Bond Highlights

FRANKFURT: The Hungarian National Bank is issuing a 200 min mark eight-year Eurobond with an eight pct coupon priced at par, lead manager DG Bank Deutsche Genossenschaftsbank said.
Rome: Banco di Roma SPA is arranging a 150 min European currency unit 10-year syndicated loan for Autostrade SPA, a bank official said.
London: Press koggy PLC is issuing a 100 min dir, four year, equity warrant Eurobond with an indicated coupon at 4-1/2 pct, lead manager National Australia International PLC said.
Frankfurt Euro: It is issuing a 150 min mark private placement Eurobond with a 8-5/8 p.c. coupon priced at 101-1/8 for four years, lead manager Deutsche Bank AG said.
London: Österreichische Kontrollbank AG is issuing a 100 min stg Eurobond due June 15, 1992 paying 12 pct and priced at 100-7/8 pct.
Copenhagen: Commerzbank Overseas Finance NV of Curacao is issuing a 300 min Danish crown four year zero coupon bond, lead manager Privatbanken AS said.
Mexico City: New York Federal Reserve Bank chairman Constance is invited senior bankers to meet the heads of three Mexican financing agencies next Tuesday to discuss Mexico's 1989-90 financing requirements, the Mexican Finance Ministry said.
Hong Kong: The World Bank will support a US initiative to reduce debt among developing nations if they move to improve their London. The British government confirmed it will write off five billion stg of debt owed by the existing water authorities before they are privatised.

BONN/BAY

	PR CLOSE	OPEN	CLOSE	GE SHIPPING	38.25	38	40.50	HRC LTD	390	380	390
ACC	321.50	323	326	GLINDIA	93	92.75	93.50	MUR IRON	108	107	111
ALM CHEN	--	--	--	GWF	36.75	36.25	37 NAT INDEX	370.99			369.41
ALV HIS	--	--	--	GRASIM	119	121	123.50	NIPPON	36	35	36
ARI FAB	--	--	--	GUJ ALKL	145	143.75	147.50	NOCL	790	790	800
ASHOK LEY	83	82	83	GUJ HEAVY	69	68.50	69.25	OKRAY	77	76	77
ASIA PAINT	175	176.25	176	HERO HONDA	28	26	26	PEICO	21.50	20.50	21.50
ATLAS COR	44	43	44	HIND CIBA	960	940	950	PFIZER	70	69	71
AUTO CORP	92	90	92	HIND COCOA	103.75	102.50	103	PONDS	179	179	175
BAJAJ AUTO	382.50	382.50	385	HIND LEVER	81	80.50	81.50	PREM AUTO	54.50	55	55.50
BAR RAYON	422.50	417.50	422.50	HIND MOTOR	37.50	37.75	39	RAMBAXY	118	116.50	119
BBK BOND	142	141	142.50	HINDALCO	280	280	292.50	RAY WOOL	80.25	79	80
BLOW PLAST	--	--	--	HOECHST	755	760	760	RECKITT	190	186.25	193
BOM DYE	141	141	143	IND ORG	36.50	37	38	RELIANCE	119	119	123.50
BSE INDEX	708.35			IND RAYON	87.50	88	88	SRI FIB	86	85	86.25
BURW WEL	195	196	197.50	INDROL	305.25	306.25	312.50	SIEMENS	72	71	73
CANSHARE	185	175	185	INGERSOLL	355	355	352.50	SKF	1350	1360	1400
CEN ENKA	2510	2485	2510	ITC	98.50	97	99	SPIC	50.25	52.25	52.50
CEN SPG	1880	1865	1895	JK SYM	76.25	76	77	ST HILLS	262.50	262.50	262.5
DOLGATE	332.50	332.50	342.50	KIN ENGG	187	182.50	185	TATA CHEM	110	110	113
CROMT GR	960	960	980	KIR CUNN	75	74	75	TATA OIL	66.25	62.50	65
DICK	66	66	66	KSB PUMPS	390	400	380	TATA POM	325	320	330
DEEP FERT	27.50	27.50	27.50	L AND T	84	85	85.50	TELECO	817.50	815	822.5
DUNLOP	85	82.50	85	LIPTON	73	73.50	74.50	THAPP AGRO	--	--	--
EI HOTELS	55	55	55	MAC RUSSEL	110	107.50	110	TISCO	1265	1255	1262
ESORTS	62	61.50	63	MAD COATS	100	98	100	VAM ORG	165	162	166
ESKAYEF	123.75	123.75	125	MAHINDRA	95	94	95	VARELLI	25	25	25
ESSAR SPG	22.25	22	22.25	MAS SHARE	18.50	18.25	18.85	VOLTAS	655	655	657.50
FOOD SPL	182.50	180	178.75	MICO	580	575	580	WINDO	24	23.50	24
FORBES	51	50	50	MILKFOD	230	225	230	ZENITH	65	60	62
GAR POLY	69.50	68.75	68.50	MODI	95	95	98.75	ZUARI AGRO	57.50	57.50	57.50

FRANKFURT

TOKYO

STOCK	LAST PR-CLOSE	STOCK	LAST PR-CLOSE	MITSUB CP	1540	1580	MITSUB EL	1180	1200	MITSUB EST	2460	2490
AEG	209.0	209.0	AIJINMOTO	2760	2770	2770	MITSUB HVY	1110	1140	MITSUBI CO	1110	1120
ALLIANZ VR	1673.0	1684.0	AKAI ELEC	835	842	842	MITSUBI HSY	1110	1140	MITSUBI KOB	1110	1140
BADENWERK	189.0	192.0	AKOI	1590	1410	1410	MITSUKOSHI	2460	2460	MITSUKOSHI	2460	2460
BAIF	303.5	299.6	ASAHI GLS	2270	2310	2310	MITSUMI EL	1080	1080	MITSUMI IND	1080	1080
BAYER HYP	300.0	294.7	ASAHI OPT	925	915	915	MITSUMI HVY	1660	1700	MITSUMI MFG	1660	1700
BAYER VER	363.5	336.0	BANK TOKYO	1670	1670	1670	MITSUNO MNT	1200	1210	MITSUNO MNT	1200	1210
BBC	362.5	362.0	BRIDGESTON	1590	1620	1620	MIXED SEC	1870	1870	MIXED SEC	1870	1870
BHF	435.0	435.0	CAMON	1800	1770	1770	MIXED SEC	1910	1890	MIXED SEC	1910	1890
BHW	512.0	512.0	CASIO COMP	1420	1430	1430	MIXED SEC	1910	1890	MIXED SEC	1910	1890
COMMERZBK	242.0	240.5	CHUGAI PHM	1760	1800	1800	MIXED SEC	1910	1890	MIXED SEC	1910	1890
CONTI GUMM	261.0	258.5	CITIZEN W	1080	1060	1060	MIXED SEC	1910	1890	MIXED SEC	1910	1890
DAIMER BEN	658.0	657.0	D-ICHI KAN	3350	3310	3310	MIXED SEC	1910	1890	MIXED SEC	1910	1890
DEUTSC BNK	516.5	513.5	DAI NIP IK	926	946	946	MIXED SEC	1910	1890	MIXED SEC	1910	1890
DLW	558.0	558.0	DAI NIP PT	2440	2430	2430	MIXED SEC	1910	1890	MIXED SEC	1910	1890
DRESDNER B	316.5	313.5	DAI NIP SC	1220	1240	1240	MIXED SEC	1910	1890	MIXED SEC	1910	1890
DT BARCOCK	169.3	169.0	DAI NIP TO	1010	1030	1030	MIXED SEC	1910	1890	MIXED SEC	1910	1890
FAZ. INDEX	566.58	576.39	DAICEI	1040	1070	1070	MIXED SEC	1910	1890	MIXED SEC	1910	1890
FELDMUEHLE	335.12	342.0	DAIWA H	2160	2190	2190	MIXED SEC	1910	1890	MIXED SEC	1910	1890
GOLDSCHMID	399.0	386.0	DAIMA SEC	2160	2210	2210	MIXED SEC	1910	1890	MIXED SEC	1910	1890
HARPNER	452.0	453.0	EBRA-NFG	2000	2040	2040	MIXED SEC	1910	1890	MIXED SEC	1910	1890
HOECHST AG	305.0	300.0	EISAI	2070	2040	2040	MIXED SEC	1910	1890	MIXED SEC	1910	1890
HOESCH	246.9	244.0	FUJITSU	1560	1560	1560	MIXED SEC	1910	1890	MIXED SEC	1910	1890
HORTEN	248.0	256.0	FUJI BANK	3470	3400	3400	MIXED SEC	1910	1890	MIXED SEC	1910	1890
HUSSEL HLD	563.0	563.0	FUJI PHOTO	4040	3940	3940	MIXED SEC	1910	1890	MIXED SEC	1910	1890
KALI SALZ	207.0	208.0	FUJISAWA	1780	1760	1760	MIXED SEC	1910	1890	MIXED SEC	1910	1890
KARSTADT	520.0	525.0	HITACHI	1710	1730	1730	MIXED SEC	1910	1890	MIXED SEC	1910	

BA profits soar to record high

LONDON, May 23, (Reuters): British Airways said today profits last year soared to new heights despite public concern about air safety and earlier problems surrounding its merger with British Caledonian Airways.

Chairman Lord King called the 17.5-per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £268 million (\$423 million) "first class."

Group revenues for the year to March 31 rose by more than £500 million (\$790 million) to £4.3 billion (\$6.8 billion).

"We are in the forefront of the world's most profitable airlines. These results are testimony to an excellent performance by our staff throughout the company in a period which has not been easy for British Airways or for the civil aviation industry in general," he told a news conference.

The company, which was privatised in 1987, bills itself as "the world's favourite airline." It is among the top non-communist airlines in terms of passengers carried.

Its £250-million (\$395 million) purchase in 1987 of British rival BCAL sealed its place as a super airline while bringing financial teething troubles.

King said today that many people had questioned the wisdom of the merger at first but BA had been proved right in this first full financial year since then. "Today I am pleased to report that we benefit from its acquisition," he said. However, fears on the stock market about the strong dollar, which BA uses to pay for fuel and other costs, dragged its shares down 11 pence (17 cents) to £1.97 (\$3.11).

King reassured passengers about what he described as a great deal of public concern over air safety and security.

The past year saw a spate of accidents on various airlines and the bombing of a Pan American World Airways jumbo jet over Scotland which killed 270.

King said there was no evidence BA's traffic had suffered as a result and any fears by the public would be largely allayed if they saw the care that went into BA's fleet.

"If there are organisations that ever take safety and security for granted, then I can assure you that British Airways is not one of them," he said.

BA said passengers on scheduled services rose almost 12 per cent to some 22.6 million, partly due to more business class travel.

Nonetheless, BA is eyeing costs and hopes eventually to cut management staff in its core business by 10 per cent. Directors recommended a final dividend of 5.25 pence (8.3 cents) a share, raising the total payout to shareholders from 6.9 pence (11 cents) to 7.75 pence (12.25 cents).

Compaq unveils new computers

NEW YORK, May 23, (Reuters): Compaq Computer Corp. unveiled a new line of desktop computers today that are so powerful they will cut into sales of larger minicomputers, already facing a slump.

The announcement sharply boosted Compaq's share price and hurt other technology issues, including International Business Machines (IBM) and Digital Equipment Corp.

The three new Compaq machines are based on a souped-up version of Intel Corp's 80386 microprocessor that runs at a breakneck speed of 33 megahertz. Houston-based Compaq said the new models can crunch numbers up to 35 per cent faster than machines built around the older 25-megahertz 80386 chip.

The three models of the Deskpro 386/33 are designed for data-intensive jobs like computer-aided design, financial modelling and software development. They are priced between \$10,000 and \$18,000.

Analysts said Compaq's new models represent an assault by relatively inexpensive desktops on terrain once held exclusively by the minicomputers of IBM and Digital, which sell in the \$100,000 range. Jobs that once needed a minicomputer can now be tackled by a personal computer or its high-power cousin, the engineering workstation.

This trend has played a big role in the slump plaguing the mini-computer industry, where many second-tier players — including Wang Laboratories Inc and Data General Corp — are on the ropes.

Compaq stock soared \$3.125 on the New York Stock Exchange to \$87.125, while IBM fell \$1.25 to \$109.875 a share.

Digital's stock, meanwhile, lost \$1.50 to \$95.125 in heavy trading. Digital was also hurt by the announcement late on Friday that the company will freeze salaries beginning with its new fiscal year starting on July 2.

Economic chaos scuttles Alfonsin's hopes

Argentina closes banks for fourth time this year

BUENOS AIRES, May 23, (Reuters): Argentina's economic chaos has scuttled the dreams of Raul Alfonsin to become the first elected President since 1952 to complete his term out as determined by the constitution.

But it soon became clear that, against a background of economic crisis, the seven-month transition was too lengthy to sustain.

"I don't think the country will bear seven months with a break-down (civilian) power. There is a power vacuum because the formal holder of power (Alfonsin) does not use it and the one who will have power (Menem) does not assume it," leading jurist Julio Oyarbain said yesterday.

His statement said the law stipulating a waiting period of until Dec 10 for the president-elect to take office — Menem won elections May 14 — was "excessively

long."

"I also believe that shortening the transition period, always within the basis of the constitution and consensus, will help dominate the economic variables that otherwise will be uncontrollable," Alfonsin said.

Alfonsin met with his cabinet just mid-night Sunday and issued a statement saying he was discussing with Peronist party leaders ways to enable president-elect Carlos Menem to take office earlier than originally expected.

Although wrangling continues over an emergency economic package and the exact date for President-elect Carlos Menem to take power, most politicians consider an early handover an established fact.

Alfonsin said on Sunday he was prepared to step down early "for the common good" while the Peronist Party issued a statement saying this was the only solution to the uncertainty afflicting the country.

"(An early handover) is the only way of preserving national unity and institutional order," the statement signed by several Peronist leaders said.

After Menem's landslide vic-

won elections May 14 — was "excessively

long."

"I also believe that shortening the transition period, always within the basis of the constitution and consensus, will help dominate the economic variables that otherwise will be uncontrollable," Alfonsin said.

Although Alfonsin did not give a target date for handing over power, June 30 or July 9, a national holiday, have been the most frequent dates named by politicians and newspapers.

According to constitutional experts a shortened transition would require a new election law adopted by congress and the resignations of President Alfonsin and

Vice-President Victor Martinez.

Economy Minister Juan Carlos Pugliese admitted yesterday the government's economic programme, which resulted in hyperinflation and treasury bankruptcy, was a shambles and needed more political clout, especially support from the Peronists, to be effective.

"We can't hold out until Dec 10," he said. "Our economic programme collapsed because of uncertainty and a lack of credibility."

He said he wanted the new economic programme to have support of the Peronists, but Menem bluntly repudiated the government's latest plan as he arrived in

Buenos Aires yesterday from his native La Rioja province.

The latest plan calls for the re-imposition of exchange controls and increased export taxes.

"Justicialism (Peronism) hasn't given any kind of support to the plan at all, especially since they are talking about a new big raise in public utility rates and tax increases — all the things we always opposed," Menem said at a news conference at the Buenos Aires metropolitan airport.

The government has closed banks on four occasions in 1989 before announcing tax, exchange control, and wage packages.

But for Alfonsin, a 60-year-old lawyer who has devoted his life to the radical cause, his dreams of handing power to a radical successor on December 10 were robbed by what became his government's biggest challenge — the economy.

"I now feel thoroughly mortified. I would have liked to have come to the elections in a different economic situation. That would have changed things a lot," he said in an interview published in Gente magazine.

Protests spark business jitters

China's 'open-door' trade policies are in danger

TAIPEI, May 23, (Reuters): Mass protests in China have shaken Asian business confidence in the country, but while some businessmen fear a short-term crisis, few believe Beijing's open-door trade policies are in danger.

Political strife in Beijing has not yet hurt surging trade between China and its Asian neighbours, but nervous investors from Tokyo to Singapore are putting on hold plans to pump money into the Chinese economy, according to a survey by Reuter correspondents.

Events in China have highlighted the growing dependence on the China market of Asia's export-led economies and their concern with political stability in the country.

Political strife in Beijing has not yet hurt surging trade between China and its Asian neighbours, but nervous investors from Tokyo to Singapore are putting on hold plans to pump money into the Chinese economy, according to a survey by Reuter correspondents.

But businessmen in the British colony have lived through far worse crises in their giant neighbour and have learned to take a long-term, pragmatic view.

"Frankly, anyone involved in the China trade has to be patient, and Hong Kong investors are not that impulsive. It would take something very, very drastic before they abandoned that market," said Mary Wong, head of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council's China section.

Japanese companies have been feeling the pinch of recent Chinese austerity measures aimed at combating inflation.

"If (Chinese Premier) Li Peng turned around and really crum-

ched up the students, then people will start wondering about the Chinese as reliable trading partners. But if anyone can weather the storm it's Hong Kong investors," an analyst said.

Taro Takiguchi, a researcher at the Japan External Trade Organisation, said upheavals in Beijing had "thrown cold water on investment in China."

The prosperity of Hong Kong has long been linked to the economy of China, soon to be its political overlord when Beijing resumes sovereignty in 1997.

But businessmen in the British colony have lived through far worse crises in their giant neighbour and have learned to take a long-term, pragmatic view.

"Frankly, anyone involved in the China trade has to be patient, and Hong Kong investors are not that impulsive. It would take something very, very drastic before they abandoned that market," said Mary Wong, head of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council's China section.

Two-way trade between Taiwan and China, mostly conducted through Hong Kong, jumped 80 per cent last year to \$2.72 billion.

Firms watch China unrest nervously

Companies set pullout plans

BEIJING, May 23, (Reuters): Many foreign companies in China have prepared evacuation plans for their staff as they nervously watch continued unrest and political instability, businessmen and diplomats said today.

"In order to keep my people happy and productive I've had to put a contingency plan in place to send all 20 of my expatriate staff and their families to Hong Kong or Manila if the situation gets dangerous," said the manager of a European company, who asked not to be named.

"There are company cars and drivers standing by 24 hours a day," he added.

"Absolutely there is concern. We have contingency plans ... that's just normal prudent business," said Michael Strang, branch manager of IBM China Corporation.

Companies which have already evacuated staff because of weeks of pro-democracy protest and four days of martial law in Beijing have done it unobtrusively in order to protect future business prospects.

I know of several companies which moved scheduled home leave for staff several months forward to get people out, but they still call it home leave," a diplomat said.

Other businesses, encouraged by the generally peaceful nature of demonstrations and the government response, are waiting to see future developments.

"We're keeping our eyes and ears open," said Ted Bell, vice-president and chief representative of Boeing China.

"No one feels threatened right now, but if anything were to happen it would be too late then. It's a real problem."

F. Fujino, manager of C. Itoh and Company's office in the capital, said he was not overly concerned about the situation.

"We have no plan to send staff back to Japan because nothing has happened," he said.

For the new SL series, therefore, the proven combination of shock absorber strut independent front suspension and multi-link independent rear suspension has been retained.

During this process, the side windows are retracted and subsequently return to their initial position. To ensure that even the open car meets Mercedes-Benz's exacting safety standards, a completely new, extendable roll-over bar was developed.

When retracted, it is flush with the soft top cover. When an electronic control unit registers a critical situation which might lead to a roll-over, the bar moves up within 0.3 seconds. It can also be extended at the push of a button.

The most significant contribution towards active safety is rendered by good handling and ride characteristics.

This requires first and foremost excellent suspension with precise yet shock-absorbing

wheel location elements.

For the new SL series, therefore, the proven combination of shock absorber strut independent front suspension and multi-link independent rear suspension has been retained.

A new feature, meeting even more exacting demands, is the adaptive damping system (ADS).

The proven acceleration skid control (ASR) and automatic locking differential (ASD) are also available for the new SL.

These electronically controlled and automatically operating systems relieve the driver from stress and thus improve handling and physiological safety as well as the ease of control.

At Mercedes-Benz, vehicle occupant protection is traditionally a matter of top priority. This philosophy, which has been applied in the design and production of several generations of cars, has led to the development of many safety features which

have created automotive history.

These include the anti-lock braking system (ABS) — a feature developed and introduced into production by Mercedes-Benz — in addition to the airbag and the seat-belt tensioner.

Mercedes-Benz is now also incorporating innovative safety technology into an open car, with features such as the raisable roll-over bar and the integral seat offering a high level of occupant protection.

The performance is in keeping with the convertible's claim to sports-car characteristics. Depending on the model and transmission version, the new SL accelerates from standstill to 100 km/h in between 6.2 and 9.3 seconds, its top speeds ranging from 230 to 250 km/h.

Another new feature is a screen which wards off unpleasant draughts in open driving.

The design of the new Mercedes-Benz SL is the embodiment of the successful synthesis between classic elegance and an exciting dynamic appearance. The shape of the new convertible is not just the external shell for high-quality engineering, but the perfect symbiosis of design with technology. The new SL has either a 6 or 8-cylinder engine with an output ranging from 140 kW/190 hp to 240 kW/326 hp.

Mexicana Airline will be sold to private sector

MEXICO CITY, May 23, (AP): The state-owned Mexicana Airline will be sold to the private sector as part of President Carlos Salinas de Gortari's programme to improve the nation's economy, the government announced.

"It's a new fashion, a second generation of waste export," a top UN environmental expert, Jan Huisman, told Reuters.

"There is still quite a lot of effort going into waste disposal which is not exactly dumping, but which may turn out to be not very far from that," he said in a recent interview.

Huisman, who heads the Geneva-based International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals, was in Nairobi to attend a meeting of the governing council of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP).

He said developing countries were being approached with proposals to establish projects under which wastes supplied to them would, in theory, be recycled into saleable by-products or be converted into agents for development like energy.

Wastes included for example old sludge or filter cakes containing metal residues, or refuse from chemical and other industries which produce a variety of secondary materials like industrial salts.

He cited one proposal for a large-scale plant to burn waste to generate steam, and ultimately electricity for the national grid.

This was proposed as a scheme which would enhance development and produce jobs for a century cutting back on oil imports because of economic problems.

"You only have to have a company come along and say — 'we're going to help you. All you have to do is accept 500,000 tonnes a year of a particular waste.' It sounds attractive if you can't buy oil," said Huisman.

He knew of no project of this type which had actually won the go-ahead yet.

But Guyana, for example, had seriously considered one designed to produce fuel before rejecting it, and Tunisia had been approached with one to reclaim salts, he said.

He understood Angola and Mozambique, among others, had also

been sounded out on waste recycling.

In Africa alone, Nigeria, Benin and Guinea last year uncovered straightforward dumping or attempts to dump in their countries. Meantime there were reports that Angola, Djibouti, Mozambique, Somalia and lately Morocco, had been approached, Huisman said.

Morocco denied recent media reports that it was to allow Western

companies to set up a toxic waste disposal plant in the Sahara desert.

Huisman said the idea of recycling as much waste as possible was, in principle, sound but hardly appropriate in developing countries which lacked the technology required for proper waste management, maintenance and pollution control.

"Very frequently these proposals, as far as I have seen them, are very deficient in the way they describe how the plant will function, how it will be maintained, how staff will be trained. Hardly ever is there an adequate environmental impact assessment," he added.

And even if contracts should look in order, there are risks involved because there is no guarantee that once waste is delivered for recycling there will be a viable market for the by-product envisaged.

The pill and breast cancer: what are the risks?

By Jenny Hope

THE advent of the pill almost 30 years ago was heralded as the dawn of an enlightened and liberated age for women.

But the freedom it promised—and delivered—uniquely shaped the way our society developed for both sexes.

Women finally had a real choice about when and whether to have children; marriage and the first child could take a back seat to education and independent careers.

The widespread availability of the pill in most Western countries is inextricably linked with the growth in women's rights and equal opportunities which inevitably forced men to re-examine their roles and responsibilities.

That is why the latest revelations about a link between breast cancer and the pill are likely to make women—and men—stop and think.

Is the price of freedom too

high—and have we received the final bill?

Smoking

The possibility that breast cancer might be caused by the use of oral contraceptives is a relatively new concern. It was only in 1981 that the first study suggested a link and since then a maze of conflicting evidence has been produced...

• Fears about the pill causing high blood pressure, thrombosis (formation of blood clots), heart attacks and strokes have clouded its universal acceptance.

• The largest pill study in the world, involving 23,000 users, concluded that the overall death rate due to diseases of circulation is about four times greater in women who have used the pill than in those who have never taken it.

• Further, it found that the pill makes smoking even more dangerous. It increases the risk of getting a circulatory disease and makes the attack more likely to be fatal.

• A report in the early Eight-

ies started a new scare: cervical cancer, followed last year by another new link between heart disease and the type of hormone used in the pill.

Because hormones affect the growth of some cancers, there has always been the possibility that the pill might be found to increase women's risk of developing disease.

But then, good news again. Several reports appeared to clear the pill of implication in causing breast cancer.

The latest study seems to establish a definite increase in risk for young women: pill users of developing breast cancer before the age of 36.

Controversy still dogs the issue, however, because there has not been a jump in the number of women either getting the disease or dying from it.

The research team claims that national cancer statistics are notoriously unreliable and their findings stand. But the UK government's chief medical officer, Sir Donald

Acheson, is unconvinced, and has told all Britain's doctors not to stop prescribing the pill.

A key result of last week's study is that new low-oestrogen dose pills are much safer than the old-style pills first tried out by British women in 1960. Then a woman would have swallowed in one day the same amount of oestrogen now taken over a 21-day period by a woman using a modern pill.

Breast cancer under the age of 36 is uncommon. About 650 women develop it each year, of which fewer than 200 die, compared with the annual breast cancer death toll of 15,000. The average risk of young women getting it is one in 500 and this rises to long-term (eight years or more) pill users.

This would still be a significant problem were it not for the fact that most women—95 per cent—are on modern low-dose varieties with a much lower risk.

Given this formidable list

of existing risks, are the days of the pill numbered? Doctors don't believe so and point out that until last week its advantages outweighed the drawbacks.

First and foremost, it's incredibly effective at preventing pregnancy—a fact that tends to get overlooked—and, comparing death rates, it's about 10 times safer than having a baby. It also doesn't affect future fertility. The pill has still got a lot going for it.

Benefit

More minor benefits

include its ability to modify mood, flattening out highs and lows, less anaemia and pelvic infection. Major plus points are protection against benign breast disease, fibroids in the womb and two kinds of cancer.

Ovarian cancer kills more

women than any other gynaecological malignancy, and a three-fold reduction in risk after five years' pill taking may provide a lifelong benefit. Similar long-term protection has been found against

cancer of the lining of the womb.

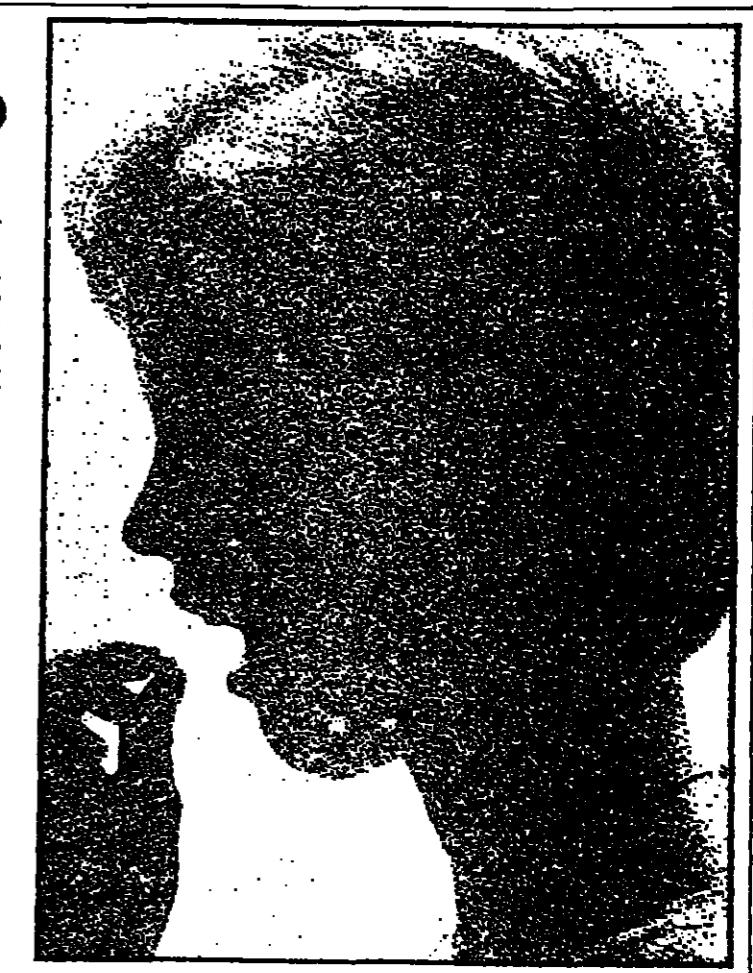
However, Dr John Guillebaud, one of Britain's leading experts on the pill, believes the new study alerts the balance sheet. Doctors should now raise the issue with their patients.

"Women should be given information on which, as an individual, they can decide whether to start taking it or carry on," he said.

He points out that we still don't have an answer to the burning question of whether an increased risk of breast cancer among young women becomes a ghastly legacy for the rest of life.

But, says Dr Guillebaud: "Nothing in this life is without risk—doing nothing about family planning can be risky, too."

The initial reaction from Britain's three million pill users to the latest bad news looks set to vindicate his judgement. The Family Planning Association's London centre had only two queries.



A plea for glitter by a woman who should know

Why diamonds are a girl's best friend

By Sally Burton

NO, diamonds are not a girl's best friend. That is the one thing they got wrong. A girl's best friends are not the gemstones, but the man—or men—who gives them to her.

The whole point of diamonds is having a wonderful man to give them to you—and, at the end of the day, to take them off you.

I should know, as someone who married the man famous for adorning his previous wife, Liz Taylor, with some of the most famous stones in the world. I find it depressing that today's women would apparently prefer their men to spend money on a new carpet or washing machine instead.

No matter how I try, I really do not think I'm going to be able to develop a latent passion for either. There is simply not enough romance involved and they do not last forever, which diamonds definitely do.

Blatant

Anita Loos was the first to say: "Kissing your hands may make you feel very, very good but a diamond and sapphire bracelet lasts forever," though some claim that a diamond and diamond bracelet has even more mileage.

Apparently older women consider expensive jewellery decadent. Well it is, and that is the blatant joy of it.

When worn by other people it is probably quite vulgar and ostentatious too. But when worn by yourself, believe me, it slips on a treat. No problem at all.

One friend who keeps in touch with how I was then and how I am now told me the other day that the one thing she remembers was that I always wore diamonds. She got quite carried away and said there were rows of them, which is a nice sentiment but not strictly true.

My training in this particular sport started when I was 21 and my wonderful grandmother (the indomitable Frederica Augusta, with definite leanings towards the grand—my resemblance to her has been noted on several occasions) gave me a glorious five stone diamond ring.

She had been given it by Great Aunt Selina, who once owned it in part payment of a debt, so it had a bit of family history attached to it, which made it all the more interesting. Meanwhile Yves Saint Laurent have given their highly successful Soins Majeurs line a dynamic face-lift. The range is now improved and repackaged to provide an extremely innovative range of basic skin care products.

The Burton sparkle: Sally Burton and Liz Taylor display the gifts that any woman would just love to receive

and buy it," came ringing out in the famous Burton tones, while the rest of the patrons were quietly putting away their mild and bitter.

Richard loved to buy jewellery, particularly diamonds, and perhaps my most treasured piece is one he bought me just before he died in 1984. It is not the biggest or the brightest, but to my mind is probably the best.

It is a diamond cut in the shape of a figure 'I' set in jet, which he gave me for our first wedding anniversary.

It is beautiful, but things might have got even more interesting had we been given the chance to

get into double figures. Imagine what a figure 25 would look like in diamonds.

So now I buy my own jewellery, though I'm quite open to receiving, and for me diamonds will never lose their sparkle. I adore them and I wear them. It would be pointless to lock them away and never enjoy them.

Essentially, one has to have fun. If in doubt, remember Mae West, who definitely had fun in the getting, the receiving, and the owning.

"Goodness, what beautiful diamonds," someone remarked. She replied: "Goodness had nothing to do with it, dearie."



1969: Bohan jacket and skirt 1972: trouser suit and straw hat and checker outfit 1987: recreating the 1947 New Look 1988: pinstripe with mink

Shock waves in fashion world

By Michaela Wrong

PARIS, (Reuters): Christian Dior's abrupt dismissal of veteran designer, Marc Bohan has sent shock waves through the French fashion world, where other ageing designers are being ruthlessly assessed by ambitious financial backers.

In replacing Bohan who had been with the firm since 1960, with the young Italian Gianfranco Ferré, Dior management made clear that competitive commercial business could be no respecters of names.

"Everyone knows that 65 is the age of retirement," commented Robert Moucher, president of the Chambre Syndicale de la Haute Couture, the body which hosts the Paris collections.

With Bohan gone, attention is now focussed on other world

"Designers who are in their sixties are going to have to deal with the problem of who will take over the reins," he said.

Bohan, 62, was admired for the restrained chic he gave his collections. His strong point was the individually-tailored Haute Couture, bought by a tiny elite of French women.

In contrast Ferré, nearly 20 years his junior, is seen as an essentially ready-to-wear designer whose more moderately priced clothes will be accessible to a wider market.

The decision to drop Bohan

was taken by 36-year-old managing director Beatrice Bongibault,

recruited to Dior last summer by Bernard Arnault, the energetic young chairman of French luxury goods group LVMH, which owns Dior.

With Bohan gone, attention is now focussed on other world

famous names like Pierre Cardin, Hubert de Givenchy, Louis Feraud, Erik Mortensen and Philippe Venet—all in their sixties—and the admired Madame Gres, a frail octogenarian.

Givenchy, whose fashion house was bought out by LVMH last autumn, might be the next possible victim. Unlike Bohan, however, the 62-year-old designer has a fashion line bearing his name, a point LVMH will be sensitive to.

Japanese business group Yagai Tsubo Ltd, which bought the Madame Gres fashion house earlier this year, is known to be looking for a successor for its 85-year-old founder.

According to press reports, Britain's Midland Bank, which bought a share of independent fashion house Lanvin this spring, is also scouting for fresh talent—although Maryll Lanvin is still

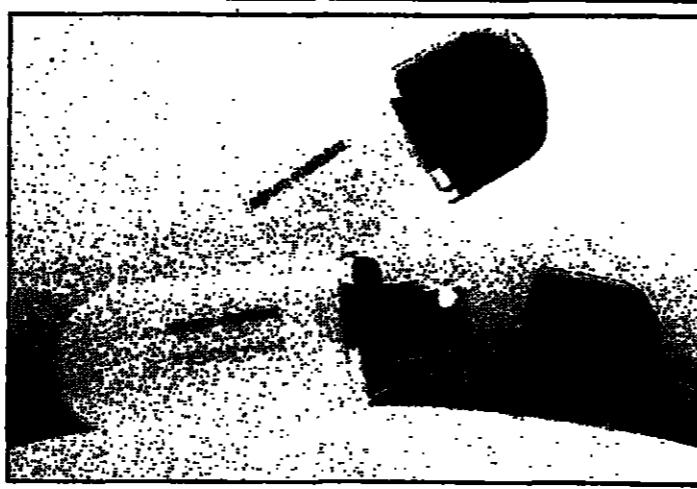
comparatively young.

Mouclier cited Claude Montana, Thierry Mugler and Christian Lacroix—French stylists still in their 40s, whose innovative ideas are at the cutting edge of fashion—as likely successors to the older generation of designers.

He pointed to the example of West German designer Karl Lagerfeld, who has transformed the traditional fashion house Chanel while simultaneously designing under his own name.

"Lagerfeld's experience at Chanel is the direction the future is going to take," Mouclier said.

The Guy Laroche fashion house has already followed suit after the death of its founder in February. Italian designer Angelo Tarazzi is now in charge of Houte Couture while continuing to market clothes under his own label.



Serum Vitalisant, a new product by Yves St Laurent

the user to measure out just the right amount for her needs. It is closed by a black cap, decorated with a fine golden line. Its 15 ml contents allow for approximately forty applications.

Meanwhile Yves Saint Laurent have given their highly successful Soins Majeurs line a dynamic face-lift. The range is now improved and repackaged to provide an extremely innovative range of basic skin care products.

FAMILY DOCTOR By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

MALE INFERTILITY ACCOUNTS FOR ONE-THIRD OF CASES

QUESTION: We've tried unsuccessfully to have a child for three years now. I have gone through all the tests, and now my husband realizes that he, too, must be tested. What are the chances that the problem may be with him, and how will they discover it?

ANSWER: Infertility affects 15 per cent of marriages, and studies estimate that a "male factor" is responsible in one-third of these cases. Through careful, sympathetic evaluation, the underlying causes can often be pinpointed and corrected, leading to successful pregnancy for many of these couples.

First, the doctor must gather a complete sexual history of the couple, noting any factors that may affect or inhibit pregnancy, such as the frequency of sex and its timing in relation to the menstrual cycle. Lubricants, douches or other substances used in conjunction with sex may have a spermicidal effect and be preventing the sperm from reaching the uterus.

One factor that reduces fertility in the male is cryptorchidism—in childhood, the failure of one or both of the testes to descend into the scrotum. If this condition remains uncorrected,

least 60 per cent of sperm observed under a microscope within two to three hours of the sample being taken.

Oval sperm heads are considered normal in such an evaluation; large, small, tapering, duplicated and amorphous heads may also be present. Fertile semen contains 10 per cent abnormal, and between 60 per cent and 70 per cent normal forms.

These tests may reveal the presence of azoospermia—a deformation in the testes preventing the creation of healthy sperm, while patients testing abnormal in all these characteristics are likely to have varicocele—a collection of dilated veins in the spermatic cord, the most responsive to surgery.

Hormones are less likely to play a role in infertility, but can be tested if semen analysis fails to yield answers. A biopsy of testicular tissue is reserved for isolated cases.

In unravelling these questions, emotional support from the spouse and physician is critical in resolving the psychological and physical stress resulting from infertility.

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My second insight, when I

CHANEL



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QADSIYA, Block 8, Street 86, House 5, villa with 5 rooms, for a family only. Bus routes 16, Rent KD55. Tel: Majed, 2544322. 2-9 pm.

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KUWAIT City, opp. Al Muthanna Complex, Fahid Al Salem St. Sharing accommodation in a well-furnished CAC flat for a family. Tel: 2421040, 2421043-45, 1-2 pm, 7-8 pm.

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SALMIYA, near the White Rose Restaurant. One furnished room with electricity and water for 2 decent Muslim bachelors. Bus routes 14, 30, 19. Rent KD70. Tel: 5735475, 10am-1pm. 4.30-9.30pm.

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MAZDA 929 Limited, 1982, 5-speed, manual, AC, tilt wheel, power windows, 2-door, blue, in excellent condition, KD700 cash. Tel: 3801546 ext. 19, 4-6 pm.

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(AT4-47445-3)

SAAB, 1987 model, purchased from the agency, rarely used, white. KD2700 (fixed). Tel: Mr. Abu Khaled, 4718811, afternoons speak in Arabic.

(AT4-47464-3)

APPLE IIe, double disc drive with 130 diskette games, joy stick, good for youngsters. KD195. Printer Epson LX-86, new. KD85. Tel: 5712534, after 5 pm.

(AT3-47400-3)

NISSAN Stanza 1.8 SGL, 1984, first registered in Feb 1985, silver grey, 51000 km, fully automatic, four doors, hatchback, sunroof, AC, lady owner, in excellent condition. KD350. Tel: 4884485.

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(AT3-47419-3)

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MAID required for a Kuwaiti family to live-in. Tel: 4844942.

(AT3-47429-3)

MAID required, Filipina, for a family with 3 children to live-in, in Salwa. Tel: 2437394, mornings up to 3 pm, 5638964 after 3 pm.

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ACCOUNTANT, highly experienced, with driving licence and transferable residence, seeks suitable position. Salary expecting above KD1,200. Tel: Zuber, 2433770, 9 am-12.30 pm, 4-8 pm.

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MAID required, Filipina, for a small family to live-in. Must speak good English. Tel: Mrs. Mari, 2444494.

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CHEVROLET Celebrity (box) 1985, 65,000 kms, metallic, navyblue, lady driver, second user. In very good condition. KD1,450, ono. Tel: Stanley, 4837623, 8am-1pm, 4-7pm.

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HOUSEHOLD goods for sale. cheap. Owner leaving Kuwait. Tel: 2618407.

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Magic Johnson gets 2nd MVP award

NEW YORK, May 23, (AP): Magic Johnson, who led the Los Angeles Lakers to their eighth consecutive division title this season, was yesterday honoured with his second National Basketball Association Most Valuable Player award.

Johnson, also the League's regular-season MVP in 1987, this time edged Michael Jordan of the Chicago Bulls in the closest voting since 1981.

Johnson received 42 1-2 first-place votes and a total of 664.5 points in the balloting of 85 media representatives. Jordan, the MVP last year, received 27 1-2 first-place votes and

a total of 598.8 points.

The voting was the closest since Julius Erving finished ahead of Larry Bird by just 31 points, 454 to 423, in 1981.

Each voter cast a ballot for five players, in order, with points given on a 10-7-5-3-1 basis. Karl Malone of the Utah Jazz finished third in the balloting this year with 362 points, including five first-place votes.

Next came Patrick Ewing of the New York Knicks with 200 points and eight first-place votes, followed by Akeem Olajuwon of the Houston Rockets, with 179.3 points, including two first-place votes.

Johnson finished third in the MVP balloting a year ago behind Jordan and Boston's Bird.

The Laker guard led the NBA in triple doubles — figures in scoring, assists and rebounds — with 17 this season. He also topped the League in free throw percentage at .911 and made 509 of his field goal attempts, joining Bird as the only player to surpass 50 percent from the field and 90 percent from the line in the same year.

"Winning, that's what it's all about," Johnson said in a MVP release from the NBA.

Indians outplay Tigers

Twins blast Blue Jays

NEW YORK, May 23, (AP): Cleveland beat Jack Morris for the first time ever in Tiger stadium by hitting four home runs in the first three innings, defeating Detroit 7-3 last night.

Morris had a 23-7 lifetime record entering the game against the Indians, including 15-0 at Detroit.

Bud Black, 3-5, allowed three runs and seven hits in 7 1-3 innings and Jesse Orosco pitched 1-3 for his first American League save.

The first four hits off Morris, 2-7, were home runs by Brook Jacoby, Mark Salas, Eddie McDowell and Pete O'Brien.

Morris, who began the season with a six-game losing streak, allowed seven runs and six hits in 2 1-3 innings. Randy Bockus, recalled earlier in the day from the Tigers' class AAA Toledo farm club, and Frank Williams finished.

In other American League

games yesterday, it was Minnesota 6, Toronto 2, Baltimore 5, Chicago 1, Texas 4, Kansas City 1.

Twins 6, Blue Jays 2. Allan Anderson pitched a five-hitter and Greg Gagne had two hits and scored twice as Minnesota beat Toronto.

Anderson, 5-2, struck out six and walked one for his first complete game of the year. After retiring 12 straight batters, he lost his shutout with two outs in the ninth when George Bell doubled and Fred McGriff hit his 10th homer.

Dave Stieb, 3-3, gave up eight hits, struck out three and walked one over seven innings as the Blue Jays lost for just the second time in seven games under interim manager Cito Gaston.

Rangers 4, Royals 1. Knuckleballer Charlie Hough broke out of one of the worst slumps of his career and Pete Incaviglia hit a two-run homer as

Texas beat Kansas City, sending the Royals to their fifth straight loss.

Hough, who was 0-5 with an 8.53 era over his previous seven starts, pitched 5 2-3 innings and allowed four hits before giving way to Cecilio Guante with runs on first and third in the sixth.

Guante completed a walk to Bob Boone that was credited to Hough, then escaped the bases-loaded jam when Frank White hit a fly ball. Guante pitched 2 1-3 innings and allowed one hit and Jeff Russell got the last three outs for his seventh save.

Orioles 5, White Sox 1. Dave Schmidt allowed two hits in seven-plus innings and Mike Devereaux had a two-run triple, leading Baltimore past Chicago.

Schmidt, who pitched for the White Sox in 1986 before playing out his option to sign with Baltimore in January 1987, was perfect through five innings before

Marlboro

SPORTS

Magee set to return in W. Germany

MELBOURNE, May 23, (Reuter): Australian Kevin Magee will rejoin the motorcycling Grand Prix circuit in West Germany this weekend six weeks after breaking his left leg and ankle.

Magee was injured during a victory lap at the finish of the US Grand Prix on April 16 when American Bubba Shobert smashed into the back of his Yamaha causing both riders to fall heavily.

Australia's 1987 world champion Wayne Gardner crashed in the same race, also breaking a leg.

Magee, who underwent surgery in the US last Friday to remove a screw from his leg, said today he was unsure if he would ride in the race at Hockenheim but he would ride in practice.

"Over the past week I have been able to walk around without crutches and the ankle has full movement," Magee told journalists. "The muscle and knee ligament damage is what has slowed down my progress back to the track."

Gardner is not expected to rejoin his Honda team until the Dutch Grand Prix next month.

Maradona raps Italian soccer internationals

TERNI, Italy, May 23, (Reuter): Diego Maradona was furious when only one Italian soccer international appeared for a charity match against Argentina yesterday.

The Argentine captain, who delayed a trip to Buenos Aires to see his new-born daughter for the first time in order to play, was angry that the Italians decided to rest from Sunday's League games instead of helping a good cause.

"They've shown the have no heart," Maradona said after his team won 7-2 against opposition drawn mostly from the Italian Third Division. "Tired? We are just as much as them."

Stefano Tacconi, the Juventus international goalkeeper, who helped to organise the game, was equally upset. "It's an embarrassment. We've made real fools of ourselves," he said.

"The Argentines came from far away. Maradona delayed his return to Buenos Aires to see his daughter. Instead, my Italian colleagues, a day after championship play, preferred to skip it," he added.

Maguila wins

BLUMENAU, Brazil, May 23, (Reuter): Brazil's South American heavyweight champion Adilson "Maguila" Rodrigues scored a unanimous decision over American Mike Rouse yesterday to move closer to a possible shot at world champion Mike Tyson.

Rodrigues, 27, beat Rouse 10-9 in a 10-round bout at the Municipal Gymnasium in Blumenau.

"I wanted to have a quiet job, I would have taken the offer to become technical director at Real," he said.

"In Spain there is enormous

McEnroe pulls out of French Open, Mancini seeded 11th

PARIS, May 23, (Reuter): Former world number one John McEnroe, the beaten finalist in 1984, has pulled out of the French Open tennis championships starting on Monday because of back problems.

Officials of the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) said today McEnroe, currently ranked seventh, had not recovered from the pains that kept him out of the Italian Open last week.

McEnroe, 30, who has won Wimbledon three times and collected four

US Open titles, has never won the French Open, the major clay-court championship.

He lost to Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia in the 1984 final after he won the first two sets and Swede Mats Wilander beat him in the semifinals the following year. In 1988 he reached the last 16.

American Martina Navratilova, the world's second-ranked woman player, pulled out of the French Open last month, indicating she wanted more

practice on grass before Wimbledon rather than play on the Roland Garros clay courts in Paris.

Rising star Alberto Mancini of Argentina, who beat American Andre Agassi to win the Italian Open on Sunday, has been seeded 11th in the men's singles.

This reflects the latest ATP rankings which have Mancini in 13th place. He moves up two places for the French Open because of the absence of McEnroe and injured Austrian Thomas Muster.

by Navratilova in the 1987 US Open final.

Argentine Gabriela Sabatini, the only player to beat Graf this year but overwhelmed by her in the West German Open final last weekend, is seeded second.

Yesterday, a computer mix-up delayed the announcement of seedings by 24 hours, organisers said.

The weekly men's singles world computer rankings issued by ATP were wrong and had to be corrected.

SPORTS BRIEFS**Sex discrimination**

BLACKPOOL, England, May 23, (AP): A woman soccer club director claimed victory yesterday in a sex discrimination dispute after she was refused entry to a rival boardroom's drinks party. Vicki Oyston, a director of English Third Division club Blackpool, received a letter from lawmen acting for Fourth Division Tranmere Rovers admitting they had broken the law.

Soccer fans

PRESTON, England, May 23, (Reuter): Hundreds of soccer fans flooded onto the pitch and stopped an English Third Division match between Preston and Port Vale yesterday. Spectators climbed over perimeter fencing and others poured through access gates after a storm broke out. There were no injuries.

Higgins fined

LONDON, May 23, (Reuter): Double world snooker champion Alex Higgins has been fined £500 (\$785) for being rude and abusive at last month's Irish Masters, bringing his total career fines to £19,200 (\$30,440).

Rugby players

ENGLAND, May 23, (Reuter): England's Commonwealth Games Council has written to the English Rugby Union asking them to rethink their decision to pass on to players invitations from the South African Rugby Board (SARL).

Cup classifier

FRAUENFURT, West Germany, May 23, (Reuter): Libero Klaus Augenthaler was again included in the West German soccer squad yesterday for the World Cup soccer qualifier against Wales on May 31 despite continued doubts about his fitness.

Enzo Scifo

BRUSSELS, May 23, (Reuter): Mid-fielder Enzo Scifo, absent from the Belgian team in last month's 2-1 World Cup qualifying win over Czechoslovakia, was named yesterday in a 17-strong squad for Saturday's soccer friendly against Yugoslavia in Brussels.

Women's tennis

EASTBOURNE, England, May 23, (UPI): Martina Navratilova heads the draw for the \$300,000 Eastbourne Women's Grass Court Tennis Tournament June 19-24, one of the main events in the build-up to Wimbledon, organisers said yesterday.

Geneva Open

GENEVA, May 23, (AP): Fifth seed Claudia Kohde-Kilsch of West Germany was upset by unseeded American Camille Benjamin 6-2, 6-2 in the first round of the \$100,000 Geneva European Open women's tennis tournament yesterday.

Gomez triumphs

FLORENCE, Italy, May 23, (AP): Top-seed Andres Gomez of Ecuador breezed past West Germany's Torre Meinecke 6-2, 7-5 yesterday in their first round match in the \$126,400 City of Florence tournament.

Austrian driver

MARANELLO, Italy, May 23, (Reuter): Austrian Gerhard Berger will definitely drive in the Monaco Grand Prix motor race on Sunday just a month after his Ferrari crashed in flames at San Marino.

Cup matches

SEOUL, South Korea, May 23, (AP): Malaysia blanked Nepal 2-0 and South Korea thrashed Singapore 3-0 today in the opening matches of the East Asia Group 4 qualifying rounds for the 1990 World Cup soccer championship.

Overall leader

MET ETNA, Sicily, May 23, (AP): Portugal's Acacio da Silva yesterday captured the pink jersey of overall leader by winning a tough second stage of the Italian Cycling tour ahead of Colombian Luis Herrera and Swiss Tony Hominger.

Hextall suspended

NEW YORK, May 23, (Reuter): Philadelphia Flyers' goaltender Ron Hextall has been suspended for the first 12 games of next season for a deliberate attempt to injure a Montreal player, the National Hockey League (NHL) announced yesterday.

Swedes blank Czechs

Edborg vows to gamble in Paris



Edborg fought back to beat Mecir

Prix tournaments were switched to his favourite fast grass, needed one hour 55 minutes to overcome Mecir, who is still battling back after injury.

"I don't feel 100 per cent fit after this layoff with my back problems. I need a lot more matches to get fit," the Czechoslovak said.

Two-year contract signed

Beenhakker joins Ajax

AMSTERDAM, May 23, (Reuter): Leo Beenhakker signed a two-year contract as manager of Ajax Amsterdam yesterday and made returning the club to the top of European soccer his priority.

"Surviving just a round or two in European competitions is not good enough," said Beenhakker, who is back at Ajax after three seasons at Real Madrid. "We want to get back onto that European platform."

And he rejected charges in the Spanish press he had moved back to Ajax for a rest.

"If I wanted to have a quiet job, I would have taken the offer to become technical director at Real," he said.

"In Spain there is enormous

hysteria about soccer and we were travelling five days a week. I had enough of that. Here there is no hysteria, you just have to deliver good soccer."

Although Real look set to win their third successive Spanish League title, Beenhakker and the club agreed to part after they suffered a crushing 5-0 European Cup semi-final defeat at the hands of AC Milan.

In their heyday in the 1960s and 1970s, the Ajax of legends Johan Cruyff, Johan Neeskens and Piet Keizer won the European Cup three times and the World Club Championship in 1972.

But apart from victory in 1987 in what was widely regarded as one of the easiest European Cup winners' Cup tournaments in

many years, success has eluded Ajax — and declining numbers of fans in the stands have put a squeeze on club finances.

With cash still in short supply Beenhakker acknowledged Ajax would have to rely on home-bred young talent rather than on expensive acquisitions to get back to the top of European competition.

"Ajax have long been the nursery of European soccer," he said, citing the departure to foreign teams of world class striker Marco van Basten and libero Frank Rijkaard, and of other home-bred players such as Sonny Silooy and Rob Witschge.

"At Ajax, I do not have to build a new team. There is a lot of talent available," Beenhakker said.

Life ban on S. African rebels lifted

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, May 23, (Reuter): The West Indies Cricket Board of Control (WICBC) yesterday lifted the life ban on players who took part in rebel tours of South Africa.

The board said in a statement it had been agreed at a weekend meeting that the players could apply for reinstatement to play in regional matches in West Indies.

The announcement follows the board's decision to fall in line with the International Cricket Conference (ICC) resolution in January which stipulated international bans of up to five years for players who coached or played in South Africa after April 1 this year.

"West Indies players who have had sporting contact with South Africa prior to March 31, 1989, can now apply for reinstatement to be eligible for participation in matches played under the auspices of the WICBC," the board said in the statement.

It added it would announce "in due course" new regulations to deal with players who went to South Africa after April 1.

Altogether 24 players were suspended from all first class cricket in the islands for their involvement in rebel tours to South Africa in 1983 and 1984.

Most have subsequently given up the game and only Barbadian all-rounder Franklin Stephenson, who now plays for English county team Nottinghamshire, can realistically be regarded as being in contention for a place in West Indies Test squad.

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